

**Street & Smith's**

2005 YEARBOOK



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL



## GUNSLINGERS

**ALSO INSIDE:**

PREDICTIONS

DEPTH CHARTS

DIVISION 2 & 3 PREVIEWS

JUCO REPORT

TEAM-BY-TEAM STATS

COMPLETE D-I SCHEDULES

Vince Young and Reggie McNeal  
prepare for a Big XII QB showdown in Texas

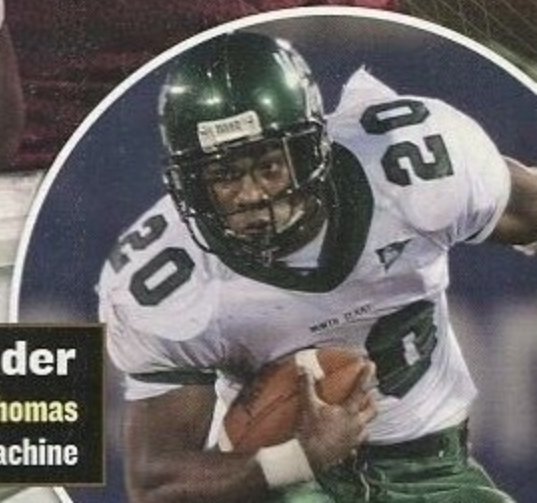


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## Endorsement of 12-game schedule is NCAA hypocrisy at its worst

OK, let me see if I've got this straight.

The NCAA Board of Directors approved the addition of a 12th game to the college season in late April, meaning that's one more week players on each of the 117 Division I-A football-playing schools must balance football and academics.

And we've been told for years now that a playoff system—even a four-team playoff—would take away too much class time from “student-athletes” for the college presidents to even remotely consider.

By the way, the NCAA Board of Directors is made up almost entirely of college presidents. Isn't that ironic.

So, it's fine to burden 117 schools with one more game—if there's money to be made—but not the 16, eight or four teams that would be involved in a playoff.

“The season will not be elongated, it just means a bye week would be taken out,” said NCAA President Myles Brand with a straight face.

This is the same Myles Brand who sought his current position on an academic-reform platform in 2003. Despite his best efforts at “reform,” it appears it didn't take long for ol' Myles to get with the policies that most I-A college presidents support.

Those policies can be summed up in one word: *money*.

If you want to expound on that, try this word: *hypocrisy*.

The amazing thing is that the college football powers that be don't see anything inconsistent in all of this. For them, it's just business as usual. They talk the talk of academics, but don't walk the walk.

They explain away their cash-hungry new ideas by turning it around on the players, saying they

overwhelmingly want to play another game. Hey, they also overwhelmingly want to graduate, but who can find time for that in the middle of an NFL-type season? They say they're just trying to give their member schools more “flexibility” in scheduling. Who are they trying to kid? They're simply giving themselves more flexibility in finding revenue.

This all wouldn't be so bad if they'd just be honest with us and say so. But, like so many other times, they want it both ways. They want to feed the hunger for more football and more revenue, and look above the fray doing so. The truth is, you can't. A used-car salesman can say he's in the business of marketing pre-owned vehicles, but he's still a used-car salesman.

And, despite his best intentions, that's what Myles Brand has become by endorsing this ridiculous expansion of the college football season. He's not the guy on the lot who gives you your test drive and sells you the car, but he's the one inside the dealership who'll close the deal and make sure all that silly financing is squared away.

You know, the one who's laughing all the way to the bank.

SCOTT SMITH  
EDITOR

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# Street & Smith's 2005 YEARBOOK COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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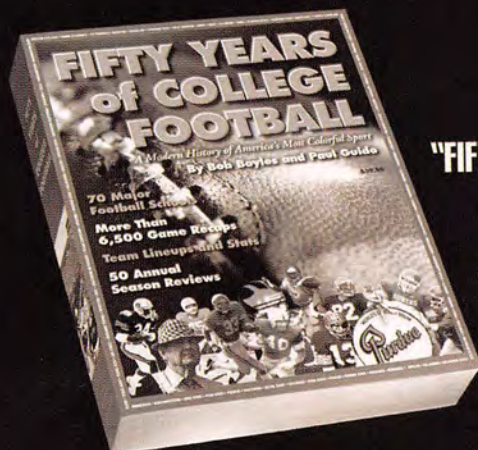
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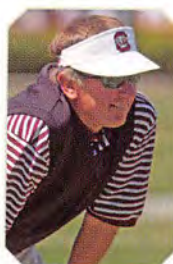


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**Here's My Record  
Where Everybody  
Can See It!**

**Last year Jimmy Vaccaro  
hit 18-7 (72%) in the  
pre-season!**

Redskins (-1) Broncos	20-17	W
Redskins/Broncos 134	20-17	L
Bears (-3 1/2) Rams	13-10	W
Giants (-2 1/2) Chiefs	24-24	W
Cards (+3 1/2) Vikes	6-23	L
Texans (-3) Dallas	18-0	W
Bills (+3) Broncos	16-6	W
Giants (+3 1/2) Car	20-27	L
Jaguars (-3) Bucs	14-6	W
Falcons (-1) Vikes	27-24	W
Ravens (+3) Eagles	17-26	L
Jets (+4 1/2) Colts	31-7	W
49'ers (+3) Bears	13-20	L
Chargers (+3) Cards	38-13	W
Rams/Chiefs 141	7-24	L
Steelers (+3) Eagles	27-21	W
S'hawks (-3) Chrg.	26-20	W
Raiders (-3) Cards	17-16	L
VaTech (+17 1/2) USC	13-24	W
Ravens (-4) Lions	17-6	W
Ravens/Lions 135 1/2	17-6	W
Titans (+4) Dallas	17-20	W
Jaguars (+3) Pats	31-0	W
Arizona (+6) Denver	33-21	W
Ravens (+3) Giants	27-17	W

**Then exploded Opening  
Day Going 5-1 for 80%**

N'Wstrn (+6 1/2) TCU	45-48	W
Memphis (+3) Miss	20-13	W
Rutgers (+4) MichSt	19-14	W
Calif (-14) Air Force	56-14	W
Cinci (+14) Ohio St	6-27	L
FresnoSt (+2) Wash	35-16	W

**...Hit 6-2 in Week 2**

Lions (+3) Bears	20-16	W
Vikes (-5 1/2) Dallas	35-17	W
49'ers (+3 1/2) Falcons	19-21	W
Utah (-14) Arizona	23-6	W
GaTech (+7) Clemson	28-24	W
Colo (+3) Wash St	20-12	W
Penn St (-4) Bost Coll	7-21	L
Texas (-11) Arkansas	22-20	L

**... 7-2 in Week 3**

Jack'ville (+3) Den.	7-6	W
Dallas (-4 1/2) Cleve.	19-12	W
Baltimore (-4) Pitts.	30-13	W
NC State (-4) Ohio St	14-22	L
Arizona (+9) Wisc.	7-9	W
UCLA (Pk) Wash	37-31	W
SD State (+20) Mich	21-24	W
Nevada (-18) Buffalo	38-13	W
UAB (+21) Florida St	7-34	L

**... and 6-2 in Week 4**

Cowboys (+1 1/2) Skins	21-18	W
Saints (+6) Rams	28-25	W
Raiders (-3 1/2) Bucs	30-20	W
Texans (+7 1/2) Chiefs	24-21	W
Titans (-6 1/2) Jaguars	12-15	L
Ariz St (-8) Oreg St	27-14	W
Louisvle (-7 1/2) NoCar	34-0	W
B.C. (-1) Wake Forest	14-17	L

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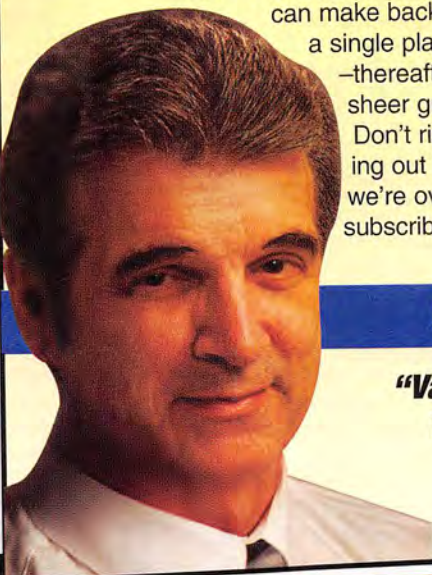
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The Las Vegas Review Journal

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A look at college football's all-time I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them

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Ryan Schneider, UCF	10,976
Alex Van Pelt, Pittsburgh	10,913
Drew Brees, Purdue	10,909
David Neill, Nevada	10,903
Danny Wuerffel, Florida	10,875
Ben Roethlisberger, Miami (Ohio)	10,829
Dan Orlovsky, Connecticut	10,706
Kevin Sweeney, Fresno State	10,623
Andrew Walter, Arizona State	10,617
Doug Flutie, Boston College	10,579
Dusty Bonner, Kentucky	10,501
Jared Lorenzen, Kentucky	10,354
Brian McClure, Bowling Green	10,258
Troy Kopp, Pacific	10,257
Danny Wimprine, Memphis	10,215
Eli Manning, Mississippi	10,119
Glenn Foley, Boston College	10,042
Cade McNown, UCLA	10,008

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

CHARLIE WHITEHURST, Clemson	7,182
BRETT BASANEZ, Northwestern	6,958
MATT LEINART, Southern California	6,878

## RUSHING YARDAGE

Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	6,397
Ricky Williams, Texas	6,279
Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh	6,082
Charles White, Southern California	5,598
Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio)	5,596
Cedric Benson, Texas	5,540
Howard Stevens, Louisville	5,297
LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU	5,263
Herschel Walker, Georgia	5,259
Archie Griffin, Ohio State	5,177
Darren Lewis, Texas A&M	5,012
Darren Sproles, Kansas State	4,979
Anthony Thompson, Indiana	4,965
George Rogers, South Carolina	4,958
Trevor Cobb, Rice	4,948
Michael Turner, Northern Illinois	4,941
Paul Palmer, Temple	4,895

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

DEANGELO WILLIAMS, Memphis	4,062
DONTRELL MOORE, New Mexico	3,675
BRAD SMITH, Missouri	2,988

## RECEPTIONS

Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue	316
Josh Davis, Marshall	306
Arnold Jackson, Louisville	300
Trevor Insley, Nevada	298
Geoff Noisy, Nevada	295
Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma St.	293
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	280
Darius Watts, Marshall	272
Aaron Turner, Pacific	266
Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech	264
Terance Mathis, New Mexico	263
Mark Templeton, Long Beach State	262
J.R. Tolver, San Diego State	262
Howard Twilley, Tulsa	261
Marcus Harris, Wyoming	259
Wes Welker, Texas Tech	259
Braylon Edwards, Michigan	252
John Standeford, Purdue	249
Nate Burleson, Nevada	248
James Jordan, Louisiana Tech	246
David Williams, Illinois	245
Troy Walters, Stanford	244
Roy Williams, Texas	241
Brandon Stokley, La.-Lafayette	241
Chad Owens, Hawaii	239
Kendall Newson, Middle Tenn. State	238
Dante Ridgeway, Ball State	238
Reggie Williams, Washington	238
TAUREAN HENDERSON, Texas Tech	236
Marc Zeno, Tulane	236
Steve Neal, Western Michigan	235
Jason Wolf, Southern Methodist	235

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

DEREK HAGAN, Arizona State	181
JOVON BOUKNIGHT, Wyoming	173

## RECEIVING YARDS

Trevor Insley, Nevada	5,005
Marcus Harris, Wyoming	4,518
Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma State	4,412
Ryan Yarborough, Wyoming	4,357
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	4,352
Aaron Turner, Pacific	4,345
Terance Mathis, New Mexico	4,254
Geoff Noisy, Nevada	4,249
Darius Watts, Marshall	4,031
Troy Walters, Stanford	3,986
Josh Davis, Marshall	3,884
Roy Williams, Texas	3,866
Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech	3,789
Marc Zeno, Tulane	3,725
Brandon Stokley, La.-Lafayette	3,702
Arnold Jackson, Louisville	3,670
John Standeford, Purdue	3,618

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

DEREK HAGAN, Arizona State	2,729
JOVON BOUKNIGHT, Wyoming	2,510

## INTERCEPTIONS

Al Brosky, Illinois	29
Martin Bayless, Bowling Green	27
John Provost, Holy Cross	27

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

JOVON JOHNSON, Iowa	14
WILLIE HUGHLEY, Florida	11





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# ALL★AMERICANS

<<<< FIRST TEAM ★ Offense >>>>

WR

Jarrett Hicks  
Jr. | Texas Tech



RB

Reggie Bush  
Jr. | USC



RB

Adrian Peterson  
So. | Oklahoma



QB

Matt Leinart  
Sr. | USC



OL

Jonathan Scott  
Sr. | Texas



OL

D'Brickshaw Ferguson  
Sr. | Virginia



WR

Mike Hass  
Sr. | Oregon St.



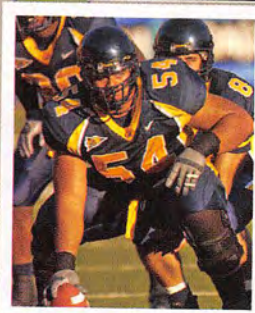
OL

Marcus McNeill  
Sr. | Auburn



OL

Marvin Philip  
Sr. | California



OL

Eric Winston  
Sr. | Miami



PK

Andrew Wellock  
Jr. | E. Michigan



TE

Zach Miller  
So. | Arizona



KR

Devin Hester  
Jr. | Miami





<<<< FIRST TEAM ★ Defense >>>>

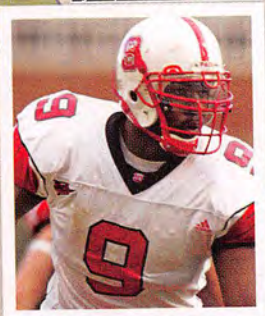
OL

**Rodrique Wright**  
Sr. | Texas



OL

**Mario Williams**  
Jr. | N.C. State



OL

**Mathias Kiwanuka**  
Sr. | Boston College



OL

**Jesse Mahelona**  
Sr. | Tennessee



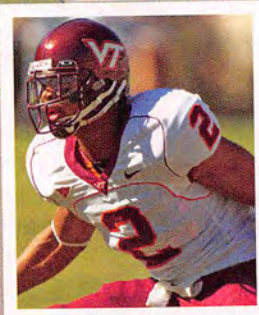
LB

**Spencer Havner**  
Sr. | UCLA



DB

**Jimmy Williams**  
Sr. | Virginia Tech



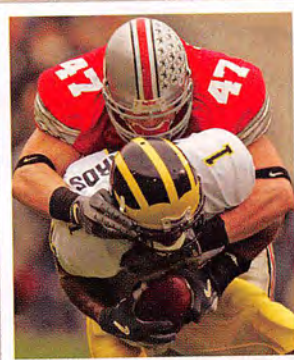
DB

**Darrell Brooks**  
Sr. | Arizona



LB

**A.J. Hawk**  
Sr. | Ohio St.



LB

**Ahmad Brooks**  
Jr. | Virginia



DB

**Jason Allen**  
Sr. | Tennessee



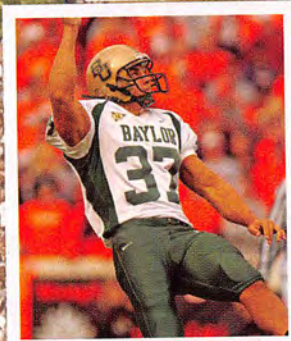
DB

**Darnell Bing**  
Jr. | USC



P

**Daniel Sepulveda**  
Jr. | Baylor





## SECOND TEAM

### ★ OFFENSE

QB	Chris Leak JR Florida
RB	Laurence Maroney JR Minnesota
RB	DeAngelo Williams SR Memphis
WR	Santonio Holmes SR Ohio State
WR	Calvin Johnson SO Georgia Tech
OL	Max Jean-Gilles SR Georgia
OL	Davin Joseph SR Oklahoma
OL	Greg Eslinger SR Minnesota
OL	Matt Lentz SR Michigan
OL	Travis Leffew SR Louisville
TE	Mercedes Lewis SR UCLA
PK	Brandon Pace JR Virginia Tech
KR	Ted Ginn SO Ohio State

### ★ DEFENSE

DL	Nick Leaders SR Iowa State
DL	Haloti Ngata JR Oregon
DL	Darryl Tapp SR Virginia Tech
DL	Gabe Watson SR Michigan
LB	Tim McGarigle, SR Northwestern
LB	Travis Williams SR Auburn
LB	D'Qwell Jackson SR Maryland
DB	Michael Huff SR Texas
DB	Jarrad Page SR UCLA
DB	Anthony Smith SR Syracuse
DB	Roman Harper SR Alabama
DB	Brandon Fields SR Michigan State
P	

Chris Leak, Florida



Nick Leaders, Iowa St.



## THIRD TEAM



Ernie Sims, Florida St.



Greg Lee, Pittsburgh

### ★ OFFENSE

QB	Vince Young JR Texas
RB	Michael Hart SO Michigan
RB	DonTrell Moore SR New Mexico
WR	Greg Lee JR Pittsburgh
WR	Nichiren Flowers SR Nevada
WR	Dan Mozes JR West Virginia
OL	Andrew Whitworth SR LSU
OL	Nick Mangold SR Ohio State
OL	Ryan O'Callaghan SR California
OL	Grayling Love SR Arizona State
TE	Leonard Pope JR Georgia
PK	Mason Crosby JR Colorado
KR	Maurice Drew JR UCLA

### ★ DEFENSE

DL	Tommy Jackson SR Auburn
DL	Steve Fifita SR Utah
DL	Dusty Dvoracek SR Oklahoma
DL	Elvis Dumervil SR Louisville
LB	Ernie Sims JR Florida State
LB	H.B. Blades JR Pittsburgh
LB	Brandon Siler SO Florida
DB	Alan Zemaitis SR Penn State
DB	Charles Gordon JR Kansas
DB	Ko Simpson SO South Carolina
DB	Antonio Cromartie JR Florida State
P	John Torp SR Colorado

## HONORABLE MENTION

### QUARTERBACKS

Drew Tate SO Iowa  
 Brad Smith SR Missouri  
 Reggie McNeal SR Texas A&M  
 Donovan Woods SO Oklahoma St.  
 Jared Zabransky JR Boise St.  
 Bret Meyer SO Iowa St.  
 Kellen Clemens SR Oregon  
 Omar Jacobs JR Bowling Green  
 Tyler Palko SR Pittsburgh  
 Brodie Croyle SR Alabama  
 Brian Brohm SO Louisville  
 Chad Henne SO Michigan  
 Joel Klatt SR Colorado  
 Michael Robinson SR Penn St.  
 Darrell Hackney SR UAB  
 Drew Stanton JR Michigan St.  
 Bruce Gradkowski SR Toledo  
 Paul Pinegar SR Fresno St.  
 Jordan Palmer SR UTEP

### RUNNING BACKS

Mike Bell SR Arizona  
 Jamario Thomas SO North Texas  
 Marshawn Lynch SO California  
 Chris Barclay SR Wake Forest  
 Gerald Riggs Jr. SR Tennessee  
 Jerious Norwood SR Mississippi St.  
 Leon Washington SR Florida St.  
 Lawrence Vickers SR Colorado  
 J.D. Runnels SR Oklahoma  
 Pierre Thomas JR Illinois  
 Matt Bernstein SR Wisconsin  
 Alley Broussard JR LSU  
 Stevie Hicks JR Iowa St.  
 Lonta Hobbs SR TCU  
 Brian Leonard SR Rutgers  
 Terrence Whitehead SR Oregon

Bryson Sumlin SR Fresno St.  
 Cory Ross SR Nebraska  
 Garrett Wolfe JR Northern Illinois  
 Curtis Brown JR BYU  
 Andre Hall SR USF  
 Lynell Hamilton SO San Diego St.

### WIDE RECEIVERS

Travis Young SR Oklahoma  
 Derek Hagan SR Arizona St.  
 Jason Avant SR Michigan  
 Jason Hill JR Wash. St.  
 David Anderson SR Colorado St.  
 Tres Moses SR Rutgers  
 Glen Holt SR Kentucky  
 Dwayne Jarrett SO USC  
 Kendrick Jones SR Illinois  
 Calvin Johnson SO Georgia Tech  
 Todd Blythe SO Iowa St.  
 Dominique Zeigler JR Baylor  
 Demetrius Williams SR Oregon  
 Kyle Ingraham JR Purdue  
 Courtney Taylor JR Auburn  
 Evan Moore JR Stanford  
 Ed Hinkel JR Iowa  
 Robert Meachem SO Tennessee  
 Terry Richardson JR Arizona St.  
 Tyrone Prothro JR Alabama  
 Mark Philmore SR Northwestern  
 Cory Rodgers JR TCU  
 Steve Smith JR USC  
 Vincent Marshall SR Houston  
 Todd Watkins SR BYU  
 Marcus Monk SO Arkansas  
 Jeff Webb SR San Diego St.  
 Jayson Swain JR Tennessee  
 Yamon Figurs JR Kansas St.  
 Jovon Bouknight SR Wyoming

### TIGHT ENDS

David Thomas SR Texas  
 Tim Day SR Oregon  
 Joe Klopfenstein SR Colorado  
 Jeff King SR Virginia Tech  
 Joe Newton JR Oregon St.  
 David Jones SR LSU  
 Charles Davis SR Purdue  
 Dominique Byrd SR USC  
 Matt Spaeth JR Minn.  
 Cooper Wallace SR Auburn  
 Matt Herian SR Nebraska  
 Clark Harris SR Rutgers  
 Owen Daniels SR Wisconsin  
 Brent Celek JR Cincinnati

### OFFENSIVE LINE

Will Montgomery SR Virginia Tech  
 Sam Baker SO USC  
 Chris Morris SR Michigan St.  
 Cody Douglas SR Tennessee  
 Mark Setterstrom SR Minn.  
 Mike McCloskey SR UCLA  
 Adam Stenavich SR Michigan  
 Mike Degory SR Florida  
 Brian Daniels JR Colorado  
 Doug Free JR Northern Illinois  
 Troy Reddick SR Auburn  
 Nick Muhlhauser SR Wash. St.  
 Joe Thomas JR Wisconsin  
 Justin Blalock JR Texas  
 Andrew Cameron JR California  
 Mark Fenton JR Colorado  
 Daryn Colledge SR Boise St.  
 Donovan Raiola SR Wisconsin  
 Jeremy Trueblood SR Boston Coll.  
 Jimmy Martin SR Virginia Tech  
 Aaron Merz SR California

Brian Ferentz JR Iowa  
 Jon Wilson SR Air Force  
 Jason Spitz SR Louisville  
 Seppo Ewvaraye SR Nebraska  
 Steve Vallos JR Wake Forest  
 Jeff Byers SO USC  
 Jake Kuresa JR BYU  
 Aaron Lips SR Louisiana Tech  
 Mike Elgin SO Iowa  
 Toby Bullock SR Marshall  
 Aaron Sears JR Tennessee  
 Ryan Wendell SO Fresno St.  
 Levi Brown JR Penn St.  
 Aaron Grant JR Iowa St.  
 Ed Blanton SR UCLA  
 Zach Strief SR Northwestern  
 Ryan Cook SR New Mexico  
 Brandon Koch SR Nebraska  
 Lance Reynolds SR BYU  
 Adam Spieker SO Missouri  
 Rob Warren SR Bowling Green  
 Lee Gray JR Iowa  
 Kyle Young JR Fresno St.  
 Jeremy Clary SR Kansas St.  
 Stephon Wheeler SR Michigan St.

### PLACEKICKERS

Connor Hughes SR Virginia  
 Justin Medlock JR UCLA  
 Selvin Young JR Texas  
 James Wilhoit JR Tennessee  
 Matt Nuzie JR Connecticut  
 Alexis Serna SO Oregon St.  
 Travis Bell SO Georgia Tech  
 Kyle Schlicher SO Iowa  
 Stephen Gostkowski SR Memphis  
 Josh Cummings SR Pittsburgh  
 Deric Yaussi SR Wyoming



# SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATES

## HEISMAN TROPHY/WALTER CAMP/MAXWELL TROPHY

**Matt Leinart** SR USC  
**Adrian Peterson** SO Oklahoma  
**Reggie Bush** JR USC  
**Chris Leak** JR Florida  
**Vince Young** JR Texas  
**Laurence Maroney** JR Minnesota  
**DeAngelo Williams** SR Memphis  
**Michael Hart** SO Michigan  
**LenDale White** JR USC  
**Devin Hester** JR Miami  
**Drew Tate** SO Iowa  
**Mike Bell** SR Arizona  
**Brad Smith** SR Missouri  
**Jarrett Hicks** JR Texas Tech  
**Reggie McNeal** SR Texas A&M  
**Donovan Woods** SO Oklahoma St.  
**Mike Hass** SR Oregon St.

## OUTLAND TROPHY/LOMBARDI AWARD (Outstanding Lineman)

**D'Brickashaw Ferguson** SR Virginia  
**Jonathan Scott** SR Texas  
**Rodrique Wright** SR Texas  
**A.J. Hawk** SR Ohio St.  
**Jesse Mahelona** SR Tennessee  
**Spencer Havner** SR UCLA  
**Mario Williams** JR N.C. State  
**Mathias Kiwanuka** SR Boston Coll.  
**Ahmad Brooks** JR Virginia  
**Marvin Philip** SR California  
**Marcus McNeill** SR Auburn  
**Eric Winston** SR Miami  
**Max Jean-Gilles** SR Georgia  
**Davin Joseph** SR Oklahoma  
**Nick Leaders** SR Iowa St.  
**Greg Eslinger** SR Minnesota  
**Matt Lentz** SR Michigan  
**Haloti Ngata** JR Oregon  
**Darryl Tapp** SR Virginia Tech  
**Gabe Watson** SR Michigan  
**Tim McGarigle** SR Northwestern  
**Travis Williams** SR Auburn  
**D'Qwell Jackson** SR Maryland

## DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (Outstanding Quarterback)

**Matt Leinart** SR USC  
**Chris Leak** JR Florida  
**Vince Young** JR Texas  
**Drew Tate** SO Iowa  
**Brad Smith** SR Missouri  
**Reggie McNeal** SR Texas A&M  
**Donovan Woods** SO Oklahoma St.  
**Jared Zabransky** JR Boise St.  
**Bret Meyer** SO Iowa St.  
**Kellen Clemons** SR Oregon

## DOAK WALKER AWARD (Outstanding Running Back)

**Adrian Peterson** SO Oklahoma  
**Reggie Bush** JR USC  
**Laurence Maroney** JR Minnesota  
**DeAngelo Williams** SR Memphis  
**Michael Hart** SO Michigan  
**LenDale White** JR USC  
**Mike Bell** SR Arizona  
**Jamario Thomas** SO North Texas  
**Marshawn Lynch** SO California  
**Chris Barclay** SR Wake Forest  
**Gerald Riggs Jr.** SR Tennessee  
**DonTrell Moore** SR New Mexico

## BILETNIKOFF AWARD (Outstanding Receiver)

**Jarrett Hicks** JR Texas Tech  
**Mike Hass** SR Oregon St.  
**Santonio Holmes** SR Ohio St.  
**Calvin Johnson** SO Georgia Tech  
**Greg Lee** JR Pittsburgh  
**Nichiren Flowers** SR Nevada  
**Travis Wilson** SR Oklahoma  
**Derek Hagan** SR Arizona St.  
**Jason Avant** SR Michigan  
**Jason Hill** JR Washington St.  
**David Anderson** SR Colorado St.  
**Tres Moses** SR Rutgers  
**Glen Holt** SR Kentucky  
**Dwayne Jarrett** SO USC

## BEDNARIK AWARD/NAGURSKI AWARD (Outstanding Defensive Player)

**A.J. Hawk** SR Ohio St.  
**Spencer Havner** SR UCLA  
**Ahmad Brooks** JR Virginia  
**Jimmy Williams** SR Virginia Tech  
**Darrell Brooks** SR Arizona  
**Jason Allen** SR Tennessee  
**Darnell Bing** JR USC  
**Rodrique Wright** SR Texas  
**Mathias Kiwanuka** SR Boston Coll.  
**Jesse Mahelona** SR Tennessee  
**Tim McGarigle** SR Northwestern  
**Travis Williams** SR Auburn  
**D'Qwell Jackson** SR Maryland  
**Michael Huff** SR Texas  
**Jarrad Page** SR UCLA

## BUTKUS AWARD (Outstanding Linebacker)

**A.J. Hawk** SR Ohio St.  
**Spencer Havner** SR UCLA  
**Ahmad Brooks** JR Virginia  
**Tim McGarigle** SR Northwestern  
**Travis Williams** SR Auburn  
**D'Qwell Jackson** SR Maryland  
**Ernie Sims** JR Florida St.  
**H.B. Blades** JR Pittsburgh  
**Brandon Siler** SO Florida  
**Chad Greenway** JR Iowa  
**Bobby Carpenter** SR Ohio St.  
**DeMeco Ryans** SR Alabama  
**Korey Hall** JR Boise St.  
**Abdul Hodge** JR Iowa  
**Moses Osemwegie** SR Vanderbilt  
**Will Derting** SR Washington St.  
**Paul Posluszny** JR Penn St.  
**Freddie Roach** SR Alabama  
**Earl Everett** JR Florida  
**Rufus Alexander** JR Oklahoma  
**Justin London** SR UCLA  
**Aaron Harris** SR Texas  
**Cole Snyder** SR Idaho

## THORPE AWARD (Outstanding Defensive Back)

**Jimmy Williams** SR Virginia Tech  
**Darrell Brooks** SR Arizona  
**Jason Allen** SR Tennessee  
**Darnell Bing** JR USC  
**Michael Huff** SR Texas  
**Jarrad Page** SR UCLA  
**Anthony Smith** SR Syracuse  
**Roman Harper** SR Alabama  
**Alan Zemaitis** SR Penn St.  
**Charles Gordon** JR Kansas  
**Ko Simpson** SO South Carolina  
**Antonio Cromartie** JR Florida St.  
**Ashton Youboty** JR Ohio St.  
**Pat Watkins** SR Florida St.  
**Aaron Gipson** SR Oregon  
**Maurice Lane** SR Baylor  
**Eric Weddle** JR Utah  
**Antoine Cason** SO Arizona

## LOU GROZA AWARD (Outstanding Kicker)

**Andrew Wellock** JR Eastern Mich.  
**Brandon Pace** JR Virginia Tech  
**Mason Crosby** JR Colorado  
**Connor Hughes** SR Virginia  
**Justin Medlock** JR UCLA  
**Selvin Young** JR Texas  
**James Wilhoit** JR Tennessee  
**Matt Nuzie** JR Connecticut  
**Alexis Serna** SO Oregon St.

## RAY GUY AWARD (Outstanding Punter)

**Daniel Sepulveda** JR Baylor  
**Brandon Fields** SR Michigan St.  
**John Torp** SR Colorado  
**Steve Weatherford** SR Illinois  
**Tom Malone** SR USC  
**Ryan Plackemeier** SR Wake Forest  
**Kody Bliss** JR Auburn  
**Chris Beckman** JR Tulane  
**Adam Podlesh** JR Maryland  
**Eric Wilbur** JR Florida  
**Sam Koch** SR Nebraska  
**Adam Graessle** JR Pittsburgh  
**Adam Brooks** SR Wyoming

## KICK RETURNERS

**Lance Bennett** JR Indiana  
**Michael Bumpus** SO Wash. St.  
**Steve Breaston** JR Michigan  
**Will Blackmon** SR Boston College  
**Ashlan Davis** SR Tulsa  
**Willie Andrews** SR Baylor  
**Jeff Backes** SR Northwestern  
**Travis Williams** SO East Carolina

## DEFENSIVE LINE

**Brandon Mebane** JR California  
**Larry Birdine** JR Oklahoma  
**Devon Long** SR Oregon  
**Orien Harris** SR Miami  
**Claude Wroten** SR LSU  
**James Garee** SR Colorado  
**Stanley McClover** SO Auburn  
**LaMarr Woodley** JR Michigan  
**Lawrence Jackson** SO USC  
**Parys Haralson** SR Tennessee  
**Julian Jenkins** SR Stanford  
**Clifton Ryan** JR Michigan St.  
**Jonathan Lewis** SR Virginia Tech  
**Kevin Brown** JR UCLA  
**Kyle Williams** SR LSU  
**Loren Howard** SR Northwestern  
**Jordan White-Frisbee** SO Wash.  
**McKinley Boykin** SR Mississippi  
**Le Kevin Smith** SR Nebraska  
**Garrett McIntyre** SR Fresno St.  
**Anthony Montgomery** SR Minn.  
**Babatunde Oshinowo** SR Stanford  
**Willie Evans** SR Mississippi St.  
**Ray Edwards** JR Purdue  
**Xzavie Jackson** JR Missouri  
**Manuel Wright** JR USC

**Quentin Groves** JR Auburn  
**Larry Dibbles** SR Texas  
**Larry McSwain** JR UAB  
**James Wyche** SR Syracuse  
**Tamba Hali** SR Penn St.  
**Justin Harrell** JR Tennessee  
**Dan Bauzin** JR Central Michigan  
**Scott Edmonds** SR Kansas St.  
**Adam Roberts** SR Cincinnati  
**Marcus West** SR Memphis  
**Titus Adams** SR Nebraska  
**Tim Crowder** SR Texas  
**Matthew Rice** SR Penn St.  
**Ryan Neill** SR Rutgers

## LINEBACKERS

**Chad Greenway** JR Iowa  
**Bobby Carpenter** SR Ohio St.  
**DeMeco Ryans** SR Alabama  
**Korey Hall** JR Boise St.  
**Abdul Hodge** JR Iowa  
**Moses Osemwegie** SR Vanderbilt  
**Will Derting** SR Wash. St.  
**Paul Posluszny** JR Penn St.  
**Freddie Roach** SR Alabama  
**Earl Everett** JR Florida  
**Rufus Alexander** JR Oklahoma  
**Justin London** SR UCLA  
**Aaron Harris** SR Texas  
**Cole Snyder** SR Idaho  
**Jon Alston** SR Stanford  
**Brian Iwuh** SR Colorado  
**Gerris Wilkinson** SR Georgia Tech  
**Kyle Killian** SR Indiana  
**Dallas Sartz** SR USC  
**Kevin Simon** SR Tennessee  
**Joe Lobendahn** SR Wash.

**Dan Connor** SO Penn St.  
**Dale Robinson** SR Arizona St.  
**Brandon Archer** JR Kansas St.  
**Donnie McCleskey** SR California  
**Trent Bray** SR Oregon St.  
**Keon Jackson** SR Toledo  
**Thaddeus Washington** JR Colo.  
**Omar Gaither** SR Tennessee  
**Quinn Pitcock** JR Ohio St.  
**Scott Davis** JR Wash. St.  
**Brandon Johnson** SR Louisville  
**Cameron Jensen** JR BYU  
**Terna Nande** SR Miami (Ohio)  
**Spencer Toone** SR Utah  
**Chris Moore** SR East Carolina  
**Tim Dobbins** SR Iowa St.  
**Kevin Schimmelmman** SR Stanford  
**Jason Mitchell** SR Tennessee  
**Keith Ellison** SR Oregon St.  
**Stephen Nicholas** JR USF  
**Anthony Cannon** SR Tulane  
**Thomas Howard** SR UTEP  
**Dedrick Harrington** JR Missouri  
**Jamar Williams** SR Arizona St.

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

**Ashton Youboty** JR Ohio St.  
**Pat Watkins** SR Florida St.  
**Aaron Gipson** SR Oregon  
**Maurice Lane** SR Baylor  
**Eric Weddle** JR Utah  
**Antoine Cason** SO Arizona  
**Roshawn Fellows** SO Tennessee  
**Muhammad Abdullah** SR Kentucky  
**Bernard Pollard** JR Purdue  
**Daymeion Hughes** JR California  
**Charlie Pephrah** SR Alabama

**Wesley Smith** SR Memphis  
**Eric Smith** SR Michigan St.  
**Harrison Smith** SR California  
**Sabby Piscitelli** JR Oregon St.  
**LaRon Landry** JR LSU  
**Curtis Keyes** JR Marshall  
**Daniel Bullocks** SR Nebraska  
**Justin Wyatt** SR USC  
**Richard Marshall** JR Fresno St.  
**Nik Moser** SR Iowa St.  
**Jason Simpson** SR Missouri  
**Marcus Demps** SR San Diego St.  
**Jahmile Addae** SR West Virginia  
**Derrick Martin** JR Wyoming  
**Antwan Allen** JR Iowa  
**John Eubanks** SR Southern Miss  
**Gabriel Fulbright** SR New Mexico

## PUNTERS

**Steve Weatherford** SR Illinois  
**Tom Malone** SR USC  
**Ryan Plackemeier** SR Wake Forest  
**Kody Bliss** JR Auburn  
**Chris Beckman** JR Tulane  
**Adam Podlesh** JR Maryland  
**Eric Wilbur** JR Florida  
**Sam Koch** SR Nebraska  
**Adam Graessle** JR Pittsburgh  
**Adam Brooks** SR Wyoming  
**Kyle Stringer** JR Boise St.  
**Kyle Basler** SR Wash. St.  
**Tim Reyser** SO Kansas St.  
**Ryan Dougherty** JR East Carolina





# National Overview

By SCOTT RABALAIS, The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

## 1 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- 2 TEXAS
- 3 TENNESSEE
- 4 OKLAHOMA
- 5 MICHIGAN
- 6 LSU
- 7 VIRGINIA TECH
- 8 MIAMI
- 9 FLORIDA
- 10 PURDUE
- 11 GEORGIA
- 12 OHIO STATE
- 13 IOWA
- 14 AUBURN
- 15 LOUISVILLE
- 16 BOISE STATE

- 17 TEXAS A&M
- 18 FLORIDA STATE
- 19 FRESNO STATE
- 20 CALIFORNIA
- 21 VIRGINIA
- 22 OREGON
- 23 PITTSBURGH
- 24 TEXAS TECH
- 25 UTAH

Watch out for a new and improved college football season, but look for the same old **TROJANS** to repeat as champions.

College football has been around since 1869, when Rutgers beat Princeton six goals to four. It was a struggle that more resembled soccer than our modern game and proved that, at least for a time, no school in the Big East was a match for the Scarlet Knights.

The scoring system was changed in 1912 to what we now know. Here in the 21st century, the grand old game keeps changing in significant ways that the boys from Rutgers and Princeton could never have imagined.

Just like in 1869, there is still no playoff, and none on the horizon thanks to a new Bowl Championship Series contract that kicks in with the 2006 season. But

there are also new, widespread plans for instant replay and myriad new conference alignments, all of which promise to rewrite the face of college football this season.

Now, if they would just do away with overtime and bring back the tie game ... and the dropkick. ▼





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# Tigers' I-AA tale a nightmare so far

It can be lonely at the top, but even more so at the bottom—especially in Savannah State's case.

The Tigers are the lone independent collegiate football team in Division I-AA this season, but that's the least of their issues right now. Since making what some labeled as an ill-advised jump from Division II three years ago, the Tigers' athletic program as a whole has suffered through winless seasons and steroid allegations, all the while failing to impress most of its boosters and fans.

Savannah State's football team struggled to a 2-8 record in 2004, with one of those victories coming against tiny Allen University of the NAIA. Despite the poor mark, the Tigers actually made a small step up from the previous two seasons, when the team was 0-12 and 1-9, respectively.

But it's off the field where the Tigers have made their real news. They're currently under investigation by the NCAA due to allegations that an SSU student-assistant football coach sold steroids to players last year. That coach has since been fired.

Kent Barrett, a spokesman for the NCAA, says he can't comment on the investigation except that it's ongoing. Barrett adds that no timeline has been placed on the completion of the investigation.

Even though the school is currently in the clear, that didn't stop 11 members from quitting the Tigers' football program after last season. One of those players is running back Tahj Mowry, who transferred to Wyoming, where he must redshirt this year before regaining eligibility in 2006. Mowry says his experience at Savannah State wasn't what he had envisioned.

"Basically, I loved the school when I visited, but it was a different story when I got there," Mowry says. "I'm not here bad-talking about the school, but it wasn't organized at all. There weren't that many coaches. It basically was like chaos every practice."

Mowry says the NCAA investigation is what prompted him to quit the team, along with some of his teammates.

"When the NCAA came to interview us, and you're in this room with a person and a tape recorder, that's scary, you know," Mowry says. "I just wanted to go to school and play football. But that wasn't what was happening [at Savannah State]."

Through all of the transfers and allegations, Tigers coach Richard Basil has stayed the course, trying to remain positive as he prepares for the upcoming season. He makes it known that although 11 players left the team, the school was able to take those scholarships and use them to help bring in a 24-man recruiting class for the upcoming season. Basil also talks about how much a winning season would mean not just to the team—which returns 16 starters this year—but to SSU alumni and the university as a whole.

"It would speak so loud for us," says Basil, entering his second full season as coach at his alma mater. "We've accepted what's going on. We're not talking about it. We're working on it, and that's all you can ask for."

"Watching the players (in spring practice), I think we're due and they're starting to understand it. But it's about how bad you really want it."

Savannah State has been trying to get into a conference for the last two years, with the MEAC and Big South being the most viable options. Until that happens, Basil says he and his team will keep looking for that light at the end of the I-AA tunnel.

"It always helps to have an eye on the prize," he says. "But the players understand where we're trying to go and it takes time. We're still an I-AA team and are playing the right people. If we beat some of them, you never know."

"We're going to be better than we were last year, that's one thing I can guarantee."

—Matt McKenzie

## NEW!

### INSTANT REPLAY

One season after the Big Ten implemented the use of instant replay on an experimental basis in games played in its conference stadiums, the rest of major college football is poised to follow suit.

As of late spring, the other five BCS conferences—the ACC, Big 12, Big East, Pac-10 and SEC—had approved the use of instant replay in some fashion. So did the Mountain West. The Mid-American and the Western Athletic conferences were strongly considering instant replay and had the matter front and center on their conference-meeting agendas this summer.

Why the sudden conversion? Perhaps it was the success of the Big Ten experiment.

During the 2004 season, play was stopped in only 28 of 57 Big Ten games for instant replay, 43 stoppages in all. Of those, 21 calls were overturned. On average, only three minutes were added to the length of Big Ten games—up from 3 hours, 13 minutes per contest to 3:16, while the average stoppage took only 2 minutes, 39 seconds compared to 3 minutes, 20 seconds in the NFL.

Despite the bandwagon support of instant replay by the major conferences, the NCAA still comes short of making it mandatory. It has set down a series of parameters for using replay, such as:

- Scoring plays
- Pass complete/incomplete or intercepted
- Runner/receiver in or out of bounds
- Fumble recoveries
- Quarterback forward pass or fumble
- Illegal forward pass
- Runner not ruled down
- Forward progress for a first down
- Number of players on the field

A broad swath of plays are out of bounds for instant-replay scrutiny, most of them judgment calls like pass interference, holding, offsides, personal fouls, false starts, illegal formations and roughing the passer or kicker.

Conferences had until June 1 to submit their instant-replay procedures to the NCAA.



Many coaches may share the reaction of Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez this year as instant replay is adopted.

## Conference Alignment

Can't tell the players without a program?

Well, you can't tell who is playing in which conferences this season without this quick primer:

### ACC

The conference that started this whole string of dominoes falling by plucking Miami and Virginia Tech from the Big East last season completes the plunder by bringing Boston College on line. That will allow the league to split into these divisions, with the winners meeting in the inaugural ACC championship game Dec. 3 in Jacksonville:

**ATLANTIC:** Boston College, Clemson, Florida State, Maryland, North Carolina State, Wake Forest

**COASTAL:** Duke, Georgia Tech, Miami, North Carolina, Virginia, Virginia Tech

**NOTE:** Florida State and Miami are in opposite divisions. Still, the Seminoles and Hurricanes will be each other's permanent opposite-division opponent, keeping alive the prospect that they could meet twice each year—in the regular season and the ACC title game.

### Big East

After saying farewell to Boston College and giving Temple the boot, the Big East adds Cincinnati, Louisville and South Florida. They join holdovers Connecticut, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Syracuse and West Virginia, swelling the number of football-playing schools from seven to eight.

### Conference USA

With Cincinnati, Louisville and South Florida leaving for the Big East and TCU heading to the Mountain West, C-USA adds Marshall, Rice, SMU, Tulsa, Central Florida and Texas-El Paso to form a 12-team league consisting of two divisions:

**EAST:** UAB, Central Florida, East Carolina, Marshall, Memphis, Southern Mississippi

**WEST:** Houston, Rice, SMU, UTEP, Tulane, Tulsa

### Mid-American Conference

Marshall and Central Florida have left





## Joe Paterno, Penn State:

Probably no other coach in America could have gone 27-32 with three losing seasons in the last five years and still kept his job. One has to wonder how many more losing seasons Penn State can endure before 78-year-old JoePa realizes he's tearing down what he's worked so long to build.

the still-big MAC with 12 teams and a minor amount of divisional shuffling since both of the dearly departed were from the East Division:

**EAST:** Akron, Bowling Green, Buffalo, Kent State, Miami (Ohio), Ohio

**WEST:** Ball State, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Northern Illinois, Toledo, Western Michigan

## Mountain West

This league beefed up by one by adding TCU, bringing the total to nine with Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, UNLV, Utah and Wyoming.

## Western Athletic Conference

Four out to C-USA (Rice, SMU, Tulsa, UTEP) and three Western refugees in from the Sun Belt (Idaho, New Mexico State, Utah State) make a nine-team WAC with the original six: Boise State, Fresno State, Hawaii, Louisiana Tech, Nevada and San Jose State.

## A Warming Trend



We don't want to pass judgment on the whole global-warming theory, but it's definitely getting toasty where these coaches reside:

### Larry Coker, Miami:

What, you say? Larry Coker? All he's done is lead Miami to a national

championship in his first season in 2001, come within a highly controversial pass-interference call of another in 2002 against Ohio State and send a remarkable eight underclassmen into the NFL Draft the last three years. But the last two seasons have been pedestrian by Hurricanes standards: 11-2 in 2003 and 9-3 in 2004, the latter including a 16-10 loss to Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl with the ACC title on the line. It doesn't get any easier for Coker's 'Canes now that the ACC is at full strength with 12 teams, and with a conference championship game to hurdle as well.

### Steve Sarkisian/Lane Kiffin, Southern Cal:

One derisively imagined it might take two men to replace offensive coordinator Norm Chow when he left for the Tennessee Titans—and it did. We're skeptical here on two fronts: One, co-coordinators never seem to work and, two, can anyone match Chow's play-calling brilliance?

### Mike Shula, Alabama:

Sure, he's had to deal with a probation-ravaged roster in his first two years at the Capstone. But a 10-15 overall record—including 0-2 against archrival Auburn and a tepid 20-16 loss to Minnesota in last year's Music City Bowl—means the honeymoon won't last much longer regardless of the circumstances.



## NEW! BCS CONTRACT

The existing BCS contract and rotation ends the night of Jan. 4, 2006, when the 2005 BCS champion is crowned in the Rose Bowl. It will be the last time one of the traditional BCS bowls—if "traditional" is a term that can be used with the BCS—will crown a national champion.

Starting with the 2006 season and the January 2007 BCS bowls, a national championship game will be played the week after New Year's Day at one of the four BCS bowl sites: the Rose, Sugar, Fiesta and Orange.

The Fiesta Bowl folks get the first shot at hosting the new championship game, with the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1, 2007, followed by the BCS national championship game on Jan. 8.



# THE TWO-MINUTE DRILL

- Like instant replay, playing 12 games in the regular season was, until recently, just an experiment in college football. Starting in 2006, it will be reality. The NCAA Management Council voted in April to make the 12-game regular season permanent. Schools were allowed to play 12 games during the 2002 and 2003 regular seasons because of an extra playing date in the NCAA's football calendar. Not surprisingly, last season athletic directors missed the extra revenue of an added home game. Many coaches, however, have been opposed to expanding the regular season, claiming it was long enough already.

- Why do non-BCS conferences demand better access to BCS bowls? Just look at the bottom line. Conference commissioners and Notre Dame voted earlier this year on a new BCS contract with the Sugar, Fiesta and Orange Bowls that runs through 2009 (the Rose has a separate deal). The bowls will pay out about \$17 million per team to start with, increasing to about \$18.5 million by the end of the contract. BCS teams earned about \$14.5 million each from last year's top four bowls.

- Tragedy struck the Vanderbilt football team the day after last Christmas when senior-to-be running back Kwane Doster was shot to death while sitting in the back seat of a car in his hometown of Tampa. He was 21. Shortly after his death, the Tampa City Council voted to rename a community center in Doster's honor. Sophomore tailbacks Jeff Jennings and Cassen Jackson-Garrison are expected to compete to fill Doster's starting spot. Doster piled up 1,077 total yards as a junior last season.

- Wake up the echoes. A two-year study convinced Notre Dame to begin playing seven home games instead of six, beginning in 2009. Now that the permanent 12-game season is a reality, Notre Dame is considering playing neutral-site games once a year in cities like New Orleans, Dallas and Chicago, just like the Irish did back in the days of Knute Rockne. Notre Dame also plans to play Navy in Dublin, Ireland, for the second time since 1996.

- The Independence Bowl needed a title sponsor after going without one in 2004—but not this bad. Officials of the Shreveport, La., bowl were stunned and

more than a little embarrassed in January when a chain of gentlemen's clubs called Déjà Vu Showgirls Club offered to put its name on the bowl. Déjà Vu, based in Lansing, Mich., has 70 clubs across the country, including one in Shreveport.

"This makes me sick," Shreveport city councilman Thomas Carmody said. "It better be a bad joke."

Independence Bowl officials certainly thought so, even if they weren't laughing. Quick as a flash, bowl officials rejected the offer, dismissing it as nothing but a publicity stunt.

"It just wouldn't be appropriate," Independence Bowl Executive Director Glen Krupica said.

Still, even Carmody had to admit it would get the struggling bowl some national attention.

"I bet the halftime show [would be] awesome," he said.





# Twenty-two and counting...

Even without Chow directing the offense, the Trojans appear set for a threepeat.

## National Overview

### Street & Smith's Preseason TOP 25

#### 1 Southern California (13-0 in 2004)

Back-to-back national championships. Twenty-two straight victories. Fifteen returning starters, including Heisman winner Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush, LenDale White, Dwayne Jarrett. Who can stop the Trojans? Only themselves, unless losing offensive coordinator Norm Chow to the NFL actually does upset USC's karma.

#### 2 Texas (11-1)

If anyone else in our top 10 had the Longhorns' talent, they would be in the top two. But Texas' track record in big games under Mack Brown begs skepticism. Except, the Longhorns gained mucho confidence by beating Michigan in the Rose Bowl. They can get back there if QB Vince Young and 15 other returning starters can finally beat Oklahoma in Dallas.

#### 3 Tennessee (10-3)

The Volunteers' surprising run to last year's SEC Championship Game signaled a return to peak form for the boys from Rocky Top, and this despite a rough stretch of injuries. Quarterback Erik Ainge and his repaired right shoulder return to do the throwing, while Gerald Riggs Jr. is back to do the running. Tennessee should score points aplenty.

#### 4 Oklahoma (12-1)

One big reason the Sooners are still up here despite losing 15 starters: Adrian Peterson. The freshman piled up 3,149 total yards, including 1,925 yards rushing, in 2004. Still, it will be a huge challenge for the Sooners, who must replace QB Jason White (Rhett Bomar or Paul Thompson), wide receiver Mark Clayton (Travis Wilson, who actually led the team in TDs with 11) and defensive end Dan Cody.

#### 5 Michigan (9-3)

Considering what the Wolverines lost—wide receiver Braylon Edwards, safety Ernest Shazor and cornerback Marlin Jackson—picking Michigan this high seems highly dubious. Still, quarterback Chad Henne, running back Michael Hart and wideout Steve Breaston offer enough offensively to get this team to the Rose Bowl.

#### 6 LSU (9-3)

Three questions for the Tigers: How will they adapt to new coach Les Miles? How will they replace All-America defensive end Marcus Spears? Can they get steady play at quarterback to go with 10 returning offensive starters? If LSU

answers "yes" to all of these queries, the Tigers can contend for a second BCS title in three years.

#### 7 Virginia Tech (10-3)

Quarterback Marcus Vick—yes, you-know-who's little brother—takes over the helm of a Hokies team that could again win the ACC if he fulfills even some of his promise and keeps the off-field problems in check. Defensive back Jimmy Williams leads the defense, and coach Frank Beamer's special teams are always good for a crucial blocked kick or three.

#### 8 Miami (9-3)

The Hurricanes' stunning loss to Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl cost Miami a shot at its first ACC title and some of its swagger. The 'Canes will be out to regain that with new quarterback Kyle Wright. If Miami is to win the ACC this year, it will do it with defense, as nine starters return there.

#### 9 Florida (7-5)

The sense of dread hovering over the SEC is the fear that the Gators may have found another Steve Spurrier. New coach Urban Meyer brings his spread-option attack to a team stacked with talent like QB Chris Leak and wideouts Andre Caldwell and Dallas Baker. The defense is another story. The Gators will be in their fair share of shootouts.

#### 10 Purdue (7-5)

Led by the next great Boiler QB, Brandon Kirsch, it could be a special season in West Lafayette, as 11 starters are back on defense, seven on offense, with both kickers returning. Perhaps more importantly, the Big Ten schedule is about as favorable as it gets—no Michigan, no Ohio State and Iowa at home.

#### 11 Georgia (10-2)

The David and David era—quarterback David Greene and defensive end David Pollack—is over after a 42-10 record in four years. Coach Mark Richt was enamored with inserting D.J. Shockley in almost every game last season at QB. Now, he has no choice. There is top-notch tailback talent, led by Thomas Brown, but the defense must find a new leader.

#### 12 Ohio State (8-4)

Maurice Clarett is finally gone and the NCAA investigators aren't, but the Buckeyes are too talented to be thrown too far off their game. Ted Ginn is an early favorite in the Heisman Trophy race and the defense should be rock-hard behind linebackers Bobby Carpenter, Anthony Schlegel and the aptly named A.J. Hawk.

#### 13 Iowa (10-2)

Kirk Ferentz could be the best coach in college football. He won 10 games last year with a completely decimated running game, but ball-carriers like Sam Brownlee and Albert Young are back healthy this season. The return of wizard-like QB Drew Tate—last seen beating LSU with a game-ending bomb in the Capital One Bowl—makes the Hawkeyes as savvy a pick as any in the Big Ten.

#### 14 Auburn (13-0)

The Tigers could be reeling from the loss of offensive stars like Carnell "Cadillac" Williams, Ronnie Brown and Jason Campbell. But the anguish of being denied a shot at last year's national championship and wanting to prove themselves worthy is worth a few victories. A great defense, led by linebacker Travis Williams, doesn't hurt either.

#### 15 Louisville (11-1)

The Cardinals come riding into the Big East like Alex Karras on his bull in "Blazing Saddles." In other words, they're big and dangerous. Sure, Louisville lost quarterback Stefan Lefors to graduation, but sophomore Brian Brohm may be more talented. Add the running of tailback Michael Bush and the rest of the Big East should be afraid—very afraid.

#### 16 Boise State (11-1)

The Broncos will still be the team to beat in the WAC, but going undefeated through the regular season again seems unlikely. Quarterback Jared Zabransky must compensate for a porous defense. The winner of the Boise-Fresno State game Nov. 11 in Fresno will likely win the WAC.

#### 17 Texas A&M (7-5)

The Aggies still aren't ready to challenge Oklahoma and Texas for one of the top two spots in the Big 12 South, but they're closing the gap in coach Dennis Franchione's third year. Reggie McNeal may be the most elusive quarterback in the conference and eight starters return to the "Wrecking Crew" defense.

#### 18 Florida State (9-3)

Despite some returning talent on defense, the Seminoles don't inspire the fear they once did. Wyatt Sexton likely takes over for oft-criticized Chris Rix at QB, but everyone wants to see if he can make plays before anointing him the next great FSU signal-caller. Though no one is picking the 'Noles for the Rose Bowl, FSU is the team to beat in the ACC's new Atlantic Division.

#### 19 Fresno State (9-3)

The Bulldogs keep taking on all comers, their most recent victim being Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl. This time, with 17 returning starters, they could

be the team to beat in the WAC. Both Bryson Sumlin and Dwayne Wright are former 1,000-yard rushers, while defensive tackle Garrett McIntyre specializes in stuffing runners into small packages.

#### 20 California (10-2)

Even the Bears' preseason media guide asks the question: "Can the beat go on in Berkeley?" California's offense was decimated by the loss of QB Aaron Rodgers, running back J.J. Arrington and most of the receiver corps. Coach Jeff Tedford has built a lot of credibility by rebuilding the Bears' program. He does so this year around QB Joseph Ayoub and a raft of junior-college transfers.

#### 21 Virginia (8-4)

Their 37-34 overtime loss to Fresno State in the MPC Computers Bowl leaves some wondering if the Cavaliers are up to contending in what will be a brutal ACC Coastal Division (Miami, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech). Quarterback Marques Hagans will be asked to lead a talented but largely inexperienced team.

#### 22 Oregon (5-6)

Fourteen starters return, including virtually all of coach Mike Bellotti's top skill-position players, led by quarterback Kellen Clemens (5,149 career passing yards, sixth all-time at Oregon), running back Terrence Whitehead (1,144 yards in 2004) and wideout Demetrius Williams (47 receptions last season).

#### 23 Pittsburgh (8-4)

New coach Dave Wannstedt inherits a team better equipped to win the diluted Big East again than his former Miami Dolphins were to get to the top of the AFC East. It starts with the pass-and-catch combo of Tyler Palko and Greg Lee, and continues on defense with talented linebacker H.B. Blades, son of former Detroit Lions Pro Bowl safety Bennie Blades.

#### 24 Texas Tech (8-4)

The Red Raiders' impressive 45-31 upset of California in the Holiday Bowl convinced many that coach Mike Leach isn't just some mad offensive scientist. OK, maybe he is. But he's almost certain to produce another 4,000-yard passer (either Cody Hodges or Graham Harrell) and has a great runner (Taurean Henderson) to complement him.

#### 25 Utah (12-0)

Urban Meyer leaves behind a confident program filled with people determined not to let it slip off the national radar. Some regression is likely without QB Alex Smith, but sophomore Brian Johnson shows promise as his replacement. New coach Kyle Whittingham's background is defense.



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Jets (+4) Colts 31-7 **W**  
Chargers (+3)  
Cards 38-13 **W**

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OF MONTH**

**WON!**

8/16 Seahawks (+3)  
Packers 21-3 **W**  
(One of our wins  
was a Triple Crown,  
so we really went 8-0!)

**PRE-SEASON  
UPSET OF YEAR**

**WON!**

8/28 Browns (+5)  
Chiefs 21-19 **W**

**AVERAGE  
COVER  
19 PTS!**

**BLOWOUT  
GAME OF YEAR**

**WON!**

8/28 Colts (-4)  
Bills 30-17 **W**

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A15	Bills (+3)	Broncos	16-6	<b>W</b>
A14	Texans (pk)	Cowboys	18-0	<b>W</b>

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# 20 QUESTIONS FOR... STEVE SPURRIER

When he spent a year away from coaching football—his first in more than 20 years—Steve Spurrier thought to himself, “Maybe this is what I want to do.”

Then the mentality of the “Ol’ Ball Coach” set in, and the next thing Spurrier knew, he was charged with trying to turn yet another program around, this time at South Carolina.

Just as his visor has become a fashion trademark, renovating and improving college football teams is something Spurrier has become a master of, beginning with Duke in the late 1980s, where he was 20-13-1.

Spurrier’s next project was the University of Florida, where he cemented his legacy in college football, winning seven SEC titles and the 1996 national championship. It was during that time that he implemented the “Fun ‘N Gun” offense, where emphasis was placed on throwing the ball.

But for all his success on the collegiate level, Spurrier still wanted to give the NFL a shot to prove he could coach on the biggest stage. He got his chance following the 2001 season, when he left Florida

after 12 years and a 122-27-1 overall record to coach the Washington Redskins under a five-year, \$25 million deal.

Spurrier quickly tried to grow accustomed to this new world, installing his pass-happy offense and going 7-9 in his rookie season.

Things began to fall apart the next year, however, as the offense sputtered while Spurrier and Redskins owner Daniel Snyder began to differ on the team’s direction and ability. By the end of his second year (5-11), Spurrier had resigned, labeling the experience as “embarrassing.”

After a year off and realizing he wanted to get back into college football, Spurrier waited for the right job to come along, then took the position with the Gamecocks this past November, replacing Lou Holtz, who had three winning seasons in six years.

Spurrier’s return has sparked optimism among the Gamecock faithful, but he already has had to deal with multiple off-field issues. By press time, 11 of South Carolina’s current or former players were charged with a crime since January.

Just five days after he celebrated his 60th birthday, Spurrier sat down to talk with *Street & Smith’s* staff writer Matt McKenzie about his new job and previous employment, as well as the state of college football as he sees it today.



**S&S:** How has the reception by the South Carolina boosters and fans made an impression on you?

**SPURRIER:** The fans have been wonderful. Of course, South Carolina has always been noted for having excellent fans. They buy tickets and generously donate to the booster organization and fill the stadium. They haven’t received much in return for the dues they’ve paid to Carolina football, though. But the fans have made me, my family and my coaching staff feel like we’re the guys that they really want and hopefully, in return, we can deliver to them a good team that they can be proud of. I just feel very fortunate to be here. I just really believe this is a university that has all the resources to be successful, but for whatever reason, hasn’t achieved that much. But hopefully, we can take this program to new heights.

**S&S:** Can you put a reason on that? In its history, South Carolina has had a lot of resources and fan support, but through the years can’t seem to break through.

**SPURRIER:** Well, this situation is so similar to Florida in 1990 (when Spurrier became the head coach of the Gators). It’s sort of scary. Florida, as most people know, had not achieved all that much but yet everything was there to be very successful also. The biggest thing we did down there that we’re trying to do here is absolutely eliminate any excuse about why we can’t be winners and why we can’t be successful. So we don’t really refer to the past that much. We’re just starting fresh and are going with the team we have and, again, no excuses. If we get beat, then we’re just not good enough, not tough enough or smart enough, but no other reason.

**S&S:** You recently had your intrasquad scrimmage game. How interesting was it to see all the fans come out and have it televised on ESPN?

**SPURRIER:** Well, we heard there was going to be 30,000 to 40,000 (fans) and 38,500 showed up and were wonderful. It was very encouraging to our team that our fans have this much enthusiasm and hope that good times are on the way. When a new coach is hired, it always brings hope for better times. And hopefully we can give it to them, because I truly believe this is a football program that can be at the top of the SEC someday.

**S&S:** I know there is some familiarity with your son, Steve Jr., joining you on the coaching staff, but how hard is it coming into a new job and trying to put together a staff, trying to get them acquainted with the players in the process?

**SPURRIER:** Well, we got here at the right time in November, so we had the entire November and December to catch up in recruiting, which was the first area that we were behind. But Rick Stockstill, our recruiting coordinator, gave us an outstanding recruiting class.

**S&S:** Since you’ve been gone, how much of a different landscape do you expect college football to be?

**SPURRIER:** I think it’s pretty similar to when I left four years ago, but everybody’s throwing the ball more. Everybody’s spread out; there are probably a lot more shotgun offenses now than there were four years ago. There’s just a lot of more wide-open style of play, but still I believe the most successful teams still have a good balance between the run and the pass, and certainly we’re going to try and do that.

**S&S:** Have you talked to Lou Holtz at all since taking this job and has he given you any advice on the position?

**SPURRIER:** Oh, I’ve talked to him quite a bit as I was taking the job and the day of it. Basically, he wrote me a letter of congratulations

and I wrote him back and so forth. But he’s the type of man that once he’s left, he’s left, and he’s down in Orlando, Fla., now.

**S&S:** When you were at Florida, you had Florida-Tennessee as your big rivalry. Now it’s the battle of in-state schools with South Carolina-Clemson. How big of a deal is this game to you?

**SPURRIER:** Clemson is obviously the big rival for South Carolina. Personally, I think sometimes our fans talk a little too much about Clemson. The more you talk about a school or a team, the more you put them on a pedestal about how good they are. Personally, I think you should talk about all your opponents, but you talk about them one week at a time and try to prepare to play your best. Clemson has beaten South Carolina a lot more than we’ve beaten them. I don’t know the exact record, but we need to change that. And we need to beat Georgia, Tennessee and Florida, and we need to beat Clemson. Shoot, we need to beat a lot of these teams. But talking about it, and talking about how much you dislike (a team), has never been the answer on how to beat them. You need to prepare well, and play and coach well that day, and usually those things determine the winner.

**S&S:** How do you feel you’ll be received when you go down to Gainesville to coach your new team against your old team?

**SPURRIER:** Oh, that’s two years from now. I don’t have to worry about that until then. But I was asked how I would feel coaching against them here, which is probably a better question, because I really don’t pay much attention to the ballparks and, really, I don’t pay much attention to who we’re playing. As the head coach and the quarterback coach and the offensive coordinator, mentally I’m just into giving our guys the best plays possible, trying to call a good game and get our quarterback ready to make good



decisions. So, in actuality, I'm not necessarily thinking about the name on the helmet.

**S&S:** You and Tennessee coach Philip Fulmer got back into another "war of the words" in the offseason. How much of that is designed to get under his skin?

**SPURRIER:** It had nothing to do with getting under anybody's skin. We had a player involved in a little bit of a scuffle around here. It was never proven he hit anybody, and some of the writers were trying to make a big deal about our guys fighting and they should be kicked off the team. Our guy was at this little scuffle, but he wasn't in there kicking and throwing punches, so I just said, "You want to read about football players fighting and kicking and hitting, you need to go to Knoxville because they've had eight or nine of them arrested there." I was just trying to infer that our guys aren't fighters and kickers and this, that or the other. Of course, (the story) turned out that I was trying to insult Tennessee or something, but I was just really trying to protect our guys a little bit from being labeled as a bunch of fighters all the time.

**S&S:** On that same note, has it been tiring having to deal with the off-field issues?

**SPURRIER:** Yes, it's been very embarrassing for all of us here. You know, we've had guys steal; we've had a few guys involved with pot smoking. We've only had one violent act. We had one guy who broke in his ex-girlfriend's apartment, got arrested and was kicking and screaming, from what I heard. So, he's finished here. The guys involved with stealing, unfortunately, chose to commit those acts rather than play football for South Carolina. Those guys are finished also. It's unfortunate, (because) some of them were pretty good players—some of them were potential starters—but we're going to enforce the rules we have here. Why they chose to (commit the crimes), I don't know, but it's already happened and we've got to move on.

**S&S:** It seemed like at Florida you ran a pretty tight ship and not too many people got in trouble. What do you think is the key for managing off-field issues?

**SPURRIER:** The main factor down there is that we had to dismiss a guy my first three months on the job in 1990. A guy got in a fight down at a frat house, he punched a kid and took off, so when we dismissed him from the team, that finished the fights at the frat house. Then we had two players that got into a fight with each other at a bowl game, so we sent them home and dismissed them from the team and that ended the fights among players. And that's the only way I know how to handle it. A lot of coaches give kids second, third, fourth chances and so forth, but it's not that hard to follow the rules that we have here. So that's how I handled it in the past and that's how I'm going to handle it again here. If we lose some good players, then so be it, but hopefully the guys that are here now realize they can't do those things if they want to go to school and play ball here.

**S&S:** The position of quarterback here is going to be one of your more scrutinized positions, and it's one you've had success with in the past. In essence, do you think it's more important to be a smart quarterback or athletic, if you had to choose between the two?

**SPURRIER:** If I had to choose, oh, I'd choose a smart, courageous decision-maker first above everything, but it's helpful to have a good athletic quarterback. Shoot, the way these people rush now, you need a guy

who can avoid and move around a little bit. You can't just be a sitting target back there. And we have some pretty good players here. They're a long way off knowledge-wise about how to play quarterback, but maybe they can get there if they commit a lot of time this summer trying to learn exactly what we're doing, work on their fundamentals throwing and really learn our offense. But if you're going to throw the ball—and if you're going to score a lot of points, you almost have to throw the ball nowadays—your quarterback better make really good decisions or you can look very foolish.

**S&S:** As a quarterback in your system, how many hours do you estimate are devoted to having to watch films, study game plans and work with the coaches?

**SPURRIER:** Well, it's the ability to think on the field. (Former Florida QB) Danny Wuerffel, he didn't watch tape all summer. He watched about as much as the rest of the receivers during the season. It's not that confusing all the time, but the ability to make decisions when you see something—a lot of guys start to panic a little bit or freeze up a little bit—whereas he didn't put himself in a bad position. When you hit the snap, you better have a good idea of what you're going to do with the ball and, right now, sometimes our players are just going back there and running around. That's what we've got to avoid. We've got to have a plan just about every time you say "hut, hut" and get the ball. But you don't have to spend all summer watching tape. You just have to know what the other 10 guys are doing and, if you know what they're doing, the defense will sort of dictate what you have to do.

**S&S:** In your opinion, why did the Redskins job not work out?

**SPURRIER:** I don't have any real excuse, I mean reason. If I started talking about it, it would sound like an excuse. Someone asked me, "When did you know you were finished coaching there?" and I said I knew I was finished at the start of the second season when I was not allowed to choose who the backup quarterback would be. The owner (Daniel Snyder) decided he's going to choose the backup quarterback. So I knew I probably wouldn't last more than a year. But again, I got myself into that situation and I didn't do a very good job at all. And that's probably one of the big reasons I'm excited about this job, because I'm committed to doing this job the right way.

**S&S:** You were quoted as saying, "Maybe I was a little too arrogant," pertaining to your time in the NFL. Did that experience humble you at all?

**SPURRIER:** I think certainly any time you aren't very successful, which we weren't, we all have a little humility. It's funny, I heard (Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach) Jon Gruden's record the other day. Since the Super Bowl, he's 12-20. And I said, "Whoa, that's my record." Everybody has all the answers (after losing) except for (Patriots coach Bill) Belichick—he's the best. He's probably the favorite coach out of everybody now because he really remains humble and passes the attention and praise on to his players. But I think we all need a little more humility after being knocked down a little bit. And I've said many times I have a greater respect for all coaches now.

**S&S:** Can you elaborate on that last statement? I know at one point you poked fun at NFL coaches who sleep in their offices. Now

having experienced that, do you think that's something you have to do or can you have a life outside the NFL during the season and still be successful?

**SPURRIER:** Well, those NFL coaches, it's a yearlong grind. They take about maybe a month off, where in college we get about three months off. You have more downtime as a college coach, but I'm not a believer you have to stay in the office until midnight or 2 a.m. I talked to Gregg Williams, defensive coordinator (for Washington now under Joe Gibbs), and I asked him, "Do you stay here until two or three in the morning?" And he said, "Heck, no. I don't think you make any good decision after midnight."

**S&S:** Are you more comfortable working under an athletic director, such as Eric Hyman, who was recently hired by South Carolina, or an NFL owner like the Redskins' Daniel Snyder?

**SPURRIER:** Everyone's different. I never really had any issues with the athletic directors that I worked for and I don't anticipate any here. But when I signed with the Redskins I basically got nothing in writing except whatever my contract was. But that's a different story that we don't even need to get into.

**S&S:** Can you tell me where you think college football is with the Bowl Championship Series?

**SPURRIER:** When I was coaching at Florida, I always thought we should have had some kind of playoff with eight teams. Now that I'm here at South Carolina ... I heard because we have 27 bowls, I think, with 54 teams times almost 80-90 players, that's over 4,500 or so college football players getting the opportunity to experience postseason play. So, in a way, I understand now why we do the bowl game. But to determine the national championship, I still believe that some type of playoff should occur because all of the other sports have a playoff or tournament. Football elects not to do it and they give you all these reasons why, but none of them make any sense to me. But we have to do it the way we do it and go from there.

**S&S:** So you don't think in, say, 10 years, that the pressure from everybody calling for a playoff system will change the minds of BCS officials?

**SPURRIER:** I don't think so, unless the television people say we want a playoff and we're not going to give you all that big money for those BCS games. Because money talks, as we all know.

**S&S:** You recently turned 60 and have signed a seven-year contract with South Carolina. Is this the end of the line for you?

**SPURRIER:** Yes, I've told many people this is my last coaching gig. But I feel good; I'm looking through the seven-year deal. If I felt old, then I shouldn't have even taken the job. But I probably work out more than I ever have, maybe because I have more time. I hit the golf ball a little bit farther this past weekend than I have in a long time. But this is what I enjoy doing, it gives me excitement. I'm not ready to lay at the beach all day and play golf and come back and act like a retired guy. I want to get in the fire, get in the arena. We may get our butts kicked. Now, I'm not saying we're going to tear 'em up, but I believe we can have a very competitive team this year. And if we can recruit very close to how Tennessee, Georgia and Florida recruit, then we've got a chance to compete very well.





# ACC CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

## ATLANTIC



Games to watch:

- >>Miami at Florida State, Sept. 5  
Preview of inaugural ACC title game?
- >>Florida State at Boston College, Sept. 17  
Seminoles welcome Eagles to the ACC.
- >>Miami at Virginia Tech, Nov. 5  
This may well decide the Coastal Division winner.

official conference Web site:  
[www.theacc.com](http://www.theacc.com)

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

### Offense

QB	Charlie Whitehurst, Sr., Clemson
RB	Chris Barclay, Sr., Wake Forest
RB	Walli Lundy, Sr., Virginia
OL	D'Brickshaw Ferguson, Sr., Virginia
OL	Jeremy Trueblood, Sr., Boston Coll.
OL	Will Montgomery, Sr., Virginia Tech
OL	Stephon Heyer, Sr., Maryland
OL	Eric Winston, Sr., Miami
WR	Calvin Johnson, So., Georgia Tech
WR	Sinorice Moss, Sr., Miami
TE	Jeff King, Sr., Virginia Tech
PK	Brandon Pace, Jr., Virginia Tech

### Defense

DL	Darryl Tapp, Sr., Virginia Tech
DL	Mathias Kiwanuka, Sr., Boston Coll.
DL	Orien Harris, Sr., Miami
DL	Mario Williams, Jr., N.C. State
LB	Ahmad Brooks, Jr., Virginia
LB	Ernie Sims, Jr., Florida State
LB	D'Qwell Jackson, Sr., Maryland
DB	Tye Hill, Sr., Clemson
DB	Anthony Reddick, So., Miami
DB	Jimmy Williams, Sr., Virginia Tech
DB	Antonio Cromartie, Jr., Florida State
P	Ryan Plackemeler, Sr., Wake Forest

Mario Williams,  
N.C. State



## Championship game to give new ACC bigger piece of BCS pie

By Jeff White  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Being a prestigious basketball league was all well and good, but the ACC wanted enough football teams for two divisions. Now it has them.

The conference will make history Dec. 3. That's when it will hold, in Jacksonville, its inaugural championship game for football, with the winner claiming the ACC's automatic berth in the Bowl Championship Series.

The league added two former Big East members—Miami and Virginia Tech—in 2004. A third, Boston College, comes aboard this year, giving the ACC 12 teams and culminating a controversial expansion process driven by the conference's desire to become more prominent in football. The Eagles, consistent winners under coach Tom O'Brien, a former Virginia assistant, tied for the Big East title last season and should enhance the ACC's football reputation.

Boston College can only hope to fare as well in the first season in a new home as its one-time Big East brethren—especially Virginia Tech—did last season.

The Hokies, picked to finish well back in the pack, made prognosticators look stupid. Tech won its final eight regular-season games to capture the ACC title and advance to the BCS, where it nearly upset unbeaten Auburn in the Sugar Bowl.

Miami finished tied for third, and its victims included Florida State, which had previously ruled the ACC, winning the conference title 11 times in 12 seasons.

The final Top 25 for last season included four ACC teams—Virginia Tech, Florida State, Miami and Virginia, as well as Boston College. The conference figures to be well-represented in the polls this season, too. To gain entry into the BCS title game, however, a team often must take an unbeaten record into the holiday season, and the addition of an ACC title game will make it more difficult for conference members to remain unblemished.

The ACC isn't likely to produce the Heisman Trophy winner this year, but it's stocked with All-America candidates. Among them are Eric Winston and Devin Hester of Miami, D'Brickshaw Ferguson and Ahmad Brooks of Virginia, Mathias Kiwanuka of Boston College, Jimmy Williams and Darryl Tapp of Virginia Tech, D'Qwell Jackson of Maryland, Ernie Sims of Florida State and Calvin Johnson of Georgia Tech.

### Rating the recruits

- 1. Florida State:** Another impressive haul for the 'Noles.
- 2. Miami:** Conspicuously absent in this otherwise stellar class: a quarterback.
- 3. Virginia Tech:** Extraordinary in-state haul for the Hokies.
- 4. Virginia:** Cavaliers raided New Jersey for several blue-chippers.
- 5. Clemson:** Unlike its immediate predecessor, this class received national accolades.
- 6. Maryland:** Not the Terrapins' best class under Ralph Friedgen, but solid nonetheless.
- 7. N.C. State:** Prep All-American Tony Baker heads a strong, large class.
- 8. North Carolina:** Heels' on-field success in 2004 didn't pay expected dividends in recruiting.
- 9. Boston College:** Off-year for Tom O'Brien and his staff.
- 10. Duke:** On paper, the Blue Devils' strongest effort in many years.
- 11. Georgia Tech:** Not much buzz about the Yellow Jackets' class.
- 12. Wake Forest:** Deacons' class doesn't appear to have any firepower.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Kenny O'Neal, Florida State
Best hands	Calvin Johnson, WR, Georgia Tech
Best passing QB	Charlie Whitehurst, Clemson
Best running QB	Marques Hagans, Virginia
Most elusive RB	Lorenzo Booker, Florida State
Best instincts	Jimmy Williams, DB, Virginia Tech
Best athlete	Ahmad Brooks, LB, Virginia
Best under pressure	Ryan Plackemeler, P, Wake Forest
Top NFL prospect	D'Brickshaw Ferguson, DT, Virginia
Top impact freshman	Vince Oghobaese, DL, Duke
Hardest hitter	Ernie Sims, LB, Florida State
Biggest underachiever	Wesley Jefferson, LB, Maryland

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
Best recruiter	Bobby Bowden, Florida State
Coach on the spot	Chan Bailey, Georgia Tech

### Don't be surprised if ...

Clemson quarterback Charlie Whitehurst bounces back from a subpar junior season (17 interceptions, 7 TD passes) and regains his 2003 form.

### One man's opinion

"I think it's going to continue to get harder for teams to dominate the way [Florida State] did for a long time. I think, overall, the league's going to continue to be more competitive. Unlike the previous years in the ACC where Florida State had such a strong run, I think you're going to see several teams jump up and compete for the championship."

—an ACC assistant coach



# FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 ACC (beat West Virginia in the Gator Bowl, 30-18)

Stadium: Doak Campbell Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 82,300

Official athletic Web site: www.seminoles.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

1

Head coach: Bobby Bowden, 30th Year (278-70-4) Career Record: 351-102-4  
Assistant coaches: Mickey Andrews (assoc. head coach/def. coord./sec.), Billy Sexton (asst. head coach/RBs), Jeff Bowden (off. coord./WRs), Jody Allen (DEs), Daryl Dickey (QB), Odell Haggins (DTs), Mark McHale (off. line), John Lilly (TEs/recruiting coord.), Kevin Steele (exec. head coach/LBs)

## 'Noles not the dominant team they once were, but defense has a chance to be truly great

**R**emember when ACC football was routinely dismissed by many as "Florida State and the Eight Dwarfs?"

Alas, for the Seminoles and coach Bobby Bowden, those days are gone, never to return. That's what happens when you add Miami, Virginia Tech and now Boston College to a conference previously notable for its lack of football heavyweights.

Even before the ACC expanded, however, Florida State's decline had begun. From 1992, its first season in the ACC, through 2000, FSU didn't lose more than two games in any season. In 2001, they lost four games and, for the first time, failed to capture at least a share of the ACC crown.

They regained the title in 2002 but lost—gasp!—five games. The Seminoles repeated as ACC champion in '03 but dropped three games and again didn't contend for the national title. In '04, the 'Noles (9-3, 6-2) could not even console themselves with another ACC championship, as Virginia Tech made switching leagues look easy and grabbed the title.

That the FSU program is not the juggernaut it once was is beyond dispute. Only a fool, however, would suggest the Seminoles no longer are formidable, especially at Doak Campbell Stadium. They're still capable of dazzling performances—see the 36-3 rout of then-sixth-ranked Virginia last season—and still rank among the nation's elite teams.

From a team that closed the 2004 season by beating West Virginia 30-18 in the Gator Bowl, Florida State lost major, major talent. The Seminoles annually reload, but they're rebuilding, too. Eight FSU players were chosen in this year's NFL Draft, all in the first six rounds. Among those Bowden must replace are two first-team All-ACC selections—offensive tackle Alex Barron and defensive tackle Travis Johnson—and three second-team picks: wide receiver Chauncey Stovall, defensive end Chauncey Davis and cornerback Bryant McFadden.

Also drafted were safety Jerome Carter, defensive end Eric Moore and offensive tackle Ray Willis. Still, don't shed too many tears for Florida State. Bowden and his staff landed a recruiting class loaded with blue-chip prospects, as usual, and FSU's roster includes countless players who will one day draw NFL paychecks.

As he heads into his 30th season in Tallahassee, Bowden has five returning starters on offense and five back on defense, along with senior punter

Chris Hall. What the living legend doesn't have is a quarterback who's established himself as one of the nation's elite at his position. The graduated Chris Rix appeared to be a special talent as a freshman, but he never again came close to realizing his potential in a career marked by poor decisions.

Junior Wyatt Sexton, who started seven games in 2004, emerged from spring practice as the No. 1 QB. But if Sexton stumbles, talented redshirt freshmen Xavier Lee and Drew Weatherford are waiting eagerly for their turns. Sexton completed 139 of 252 passes for 1,661 yards with eight touchdowns and eight interceptions in 10 games last season. An on-again, off-again starter, Sexton watched Rix lead FSU to victory in the Gator Bowl.

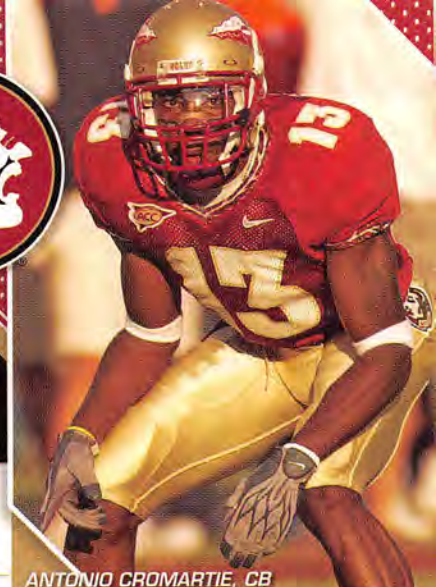
The play-calling and schemes of offensive coordinator Jeff Bowden—one of Bobby's sons—have been sharply criticized by FSU fans in recent years. The players, however, were encouraged by changes implemented during spring practice.

"I think we're going to be more dynamic and flexible," says Sexton, whose father, Billy, coaches FSU's running backs. "We're going to do a lot of different things from a lot of different sets."

A rash of injuries kept several starting offensive linemen on the sidelines during spring practice, including center David Castillo, tackle Cory Niblock and guard Matt Meinrod. For the Seminoles to achieve their goals in 2005, the line must hold, so Bobby Bowden is praying his injured players get well this summer. He also hopes youngsters such as sophomore tackle David Overmyer, who impressed in the Gator Bowl, continue to improve under new line coach Mark McHale.

If the blocking is there, tailbacks Leon Washington and Lorenzo Booker, arguably the nation's top tandem at that position, will do the rest. Washington's rushing average of 95.1 yards per game led the ACC, and he was named second-team all-conference. He also garnered MVP honors at the Gator Bowl. Booker's average of 73.9 ranked sixth in the ACC. Washington is a senior, while Booker is a junior.

Florida State lost three of its top four receivers from 2004, but with wideouts such as senior Willie Reid, junior Chris Davis, sophomore De'Cody Fagg and freshmen Greg Carr and Kenny O'Neal on his roster, the elder Bowden isn't too worried. Davis had four catches for 95 yards in a spring game dominated by the Seminoles' defense.



ANTONIO CROMARTIE, CB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 5	Miami (FL)	10-16 (OT)
S. 10	Citadel	
S. 17	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
O. 1	Syracuse	17-13
O. 8	Wake Forest	20-17
O. 15	@VIRGINIA	36-3
O. 22	@DUKE	29-7
O. 29	Maryland	17-20
N. 5	North Carolina State	17-10
N. 12	@CLEMSON	41-22
N. 26	@FLORIDA	13-20

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/18

### OFFENSE

QB	19 Wyatt Sexton (6-3, 217, Jr.)
FB	36 James Coleman (6-0, 245, Sr.)
TB	3 Leon Washington (5-9, 202, Sr.)
LT	62 Cory Niblock (6-4, 301, Jr.)
LG	67 John Frady (6-4, 298, So.)
C	63 David Castillo (6-2, 304, Jr.)
RG	64 Matt Meinrod (6-4, 297, Jr.)
RT	79 David Overmyer (6-5, 284, So.)
TE	14 Matt Henshaw (6-4, 234, Sr.)
WR	26 Willie Reid (5-10, 186, Sr.)
WR	5 Chris Davis (6-0, 176, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	92 Darrell Burston (6-2, 241, Jr.)
NG	97 Clifton Fickson (6-4, 310, Jr.)
DT	96 Andre Fluellen (6-4, 278, So.)
DE	95 Kamerion Wimbley (6-4, 234, Sr.)
SLB	34 Ernie Sims (6-0, 220, Jr.)
MLB	7 Buster Davis (5-11, 237, Jr.)
WLB	54 A.J. Nicholson (6-2, 235, Sr.)
LCB	11 Gerard Ross (6-2, 198, Sr.)
RCB	13 Antonio Cromartie (6-3, 202, Jr.)
FS	22 Pat Watkins (6-4, 195, So.)
RV	41 Kyler Hall (6-1, 201, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	12 Gary Cismesia (5-11, 206, So.)
P	48 Chris Hall (5-10, 216, Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Fred Rouse, WR**  
Widely regarded as the nation's top wideout.
- Antone Smith, TB**  
Another recruit considered the best at his position.
- Callahan Bright, DT**  
One of the top five defensive linemen in '05 class.
- Derek Nicholson, LB**  
Brother of FSU starting linebacker A.J. Nicholson.
- Geno Hayes, LB**  
First-team Parade All-American.



## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FSU	OPP
SCORING	302	169
Points Per Game	25.2	14.1
FIRST DOWNS	232	186
Rushing	109	65
Passing	99	95
Penalty	24	26
RUSHING YARDAGE	1944	997
Yards gained rushing	2338	1471
Yards lost rushing	394	474
Rushing Attempts	460	418
Average Per Rush	4.2	2.4
Average Per Game	162.0	83.1
TDs Rushing	19	5
PASSING YARDAGE	2526	2409
Att-Cmp-Int	402-215-15	380-204-16
Average Per Pass	6.3	6.3
Average Per Catch	11.7	11.8
Average Per Game	210.5	200.8
TDs Passing	11	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	4470	3406
Total Plays	862	798
Average Per Play	5.2	4.3
Average Per Game	372.5	283.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-629	38-906
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	53-597	35-274
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-164	15-116
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.3	23.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.3	7.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.2	7.7
FUMBLES-LOST	16-7	22-13
PENALTIES-YARDS	116-1034	82-689
Average Per Game	86.2	57.4
PUNTS-YARDS	70-2914	87-3535
Average Per Punt	41.6	40.6
Net punt average	37.7	33.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:36	29:24
3RD-DOWN CONV.	42/177	46/179
3rd-Down Pct	24%	26%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	15/20	4/13
4th-Down Pct	75%	31%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-249	29-211
MISC YARDS	70	66
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	33	18
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	23-34	15-21
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-33	14-16
ATTENDANCE	497047	259567
Games/Avg Per Game	6/82841	5/51913
Neutral Site Games	1/70112	

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Florida State	47	71	92	92	0	302
Opponents	49	57	25	32	6	169

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

## PASSING

## Wyatt Sexton

GP	Eff.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	114.65	252-139-8	55.2	1661	8	166.1

## Chris Rix

GP	Eff.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	87.02	149-76-7	51.0	865	3	108.1

## RUSHING

Leon Washington	10	138	951	6.9	7	95.1
Lorenzo Booker	12	173	887	5.1	4	73.9
James Coleman	12	28	87	3.1	4	7.2

## RECEIVING

Chauncey Stovall	12	53	780	14.7	6	65.0
Craphonso Thorpe	11	40	496	12.4	2	45.1
Lorenzo Booker	12	24	160	6.7	0	13.3

## DEFENSE

## TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
A.J. Nicholson	12	39	49	88
Ernie Sims	12	41	45	86
Jerome Carter	12	40	34	74

## SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Chauncey Davis	12	5.0	41
Charles Howard	12	5.0	25
Ernie Sims	12	4.5	38

## INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Antonio Cromartie	4	40	10.0	1
Pat Watkins	4	63	15.8	0
Leroy Smith	2	41	20.5	1

"We lost some good receivers, but Florida State will always have some good young ones coming up," the head coach says. "I think Chris Davis is ready to live up to his potential. Willie Reid is as good as any of them if we can just keep him healthy."

Reid also stars on special teams. In 2004 he broke Deion Sanders' school record for punt-return yards in a season, running 38 back for 522 yards. Washington and junior cornerback Antonio Cromartie are game-breaking kickoff returners.

With many of its offensive linemen on the mend, and questions remaining at quarterback, FSU may need its defense to carry the team, at least early in the season. Andrews' charges should be equal to the task. A season ago, the 'Noles ranked third nationally in rushing defense (83.1 yards per game) and fourth in scoring defense (14.1 ppg), and they look tough again.

Among other assets, the Seminoles boast what many consider the nation's top set of linebackers, led by returning starters Ernie Sims, Buster Davis and A.J. Nicholson. "I wouldn't swap with anybody, I know that," Bowden says.

Sims, a second-team All-ACC choice last year, and Davis are juniors, while Nicholson is a senior. Backups include Marcello Church, Sam McGrew, Jae Thaxton and Lawrence Timmons. Nicholson, whose brother Derek, a touted prep linebacker, joins the program this year, led Florida State with

88 tackles in 2004, including 11.5 for loss. Sims' 86 stops included nine tackles for loss, and Davis contributed eight for loss.

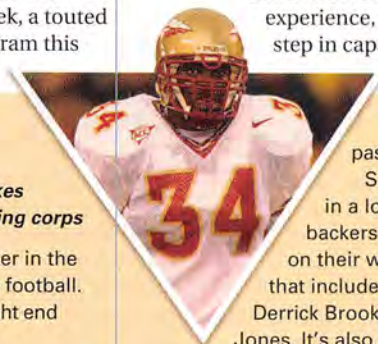
"Our linebackers are the most solid group we've got, no doubt about it," Bowden says. "It's not just the starters, but the second-liners as well."

The heart of Florida State's 2004 defensive line is now in the NFL, but talent remains. Among those back are senior Brodrick Bunkley and junior Clifton Dickson, who split time at nose guard last season. Dickson, who's listed at 6-4, 310 pounds, starred during spring drills.

End Kamerion Wimbley, a 6-4, 234-pound senior, was voted FSU's most dominant player in spring practice. Candidates at the other end spot include juniors Darrell Burston and Willie Jones and sophomore Alex Boston. The probable starter at tackle is Andre Fluellen, a 6-4, 278-pound sophomore.

In the secondary, the brightest star is Cromartie. He wasn't a full-time starter in 2004—Cromartie was FSU's nickel corner—yet still managed to earn a spot on the All-ACC first team.

Senior Pat Watkins, Florida State's fifth-leading tackler last year, is back at free safety. Watkins and Cromartie each intercepted four passes in 2004. At rover, senior Kyler Hall has starting experience, and senior Gerard Ross should step in capably at the other corner spot.



## IN PROFILE ...

## ERNE SIMS

*Hard-hitting, athletic Sims makes most noise for potent linebacking corps*

Ernie Sims is the hardest hitter in the ACC, and perhaps all of college football.

Just ask Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow.

Better yet, don't—he may not remember.

To recap, during Sims' freshman year at Florida State, he came up on the the former Miami All-American so quick and hard, Winslow's helmet flew off. Since then, opposing players have been put on notice: know where Sims is at all times.

"Very, very, very intense and explosive" is how FSU linebackers coach Kevin Steele describes Sims' hitting style, adding, "the more that he can explode on contact, the more he creates it."

As loud as Sims hits on the field, however, he is as quiet off of it. He grew up in Tallahassee, attending North Florida Christian, a private high school with less than 300 students. He's very close to his family, which includes his father, Ernie (a former FSU running back who is now an ordained minister), mother Alice (an All-America track star at FSU) and brother Marcus, a 6-2, 220-pound high school junior linebacker being courted by all of the major Division I schools.

"The first thing you have to understand about Ernie is how truly great of a person he really is," says Steele, the former head coach at Baylor and a longtime NFL defensive assistant. "He has all the right character properties; he's a good student and respectful."

"And on the field, he is a phenomenal athlete. And when I say phenomenal, I mean the top one to two percent I've seen. He plays the game with a

passion that is rare at a level he's at."

Sims (6-0, 220 pounds) is the latest in a long line of strong, athletic linebackers that have stoked in Tallahassee on their way to a solid NFL career. It's a list that includes the likes of Michael Boulware, Derrick Brooks, Sam Cowart and Marvin Jones. It's also a group Sims says he watched growing up, and one reason why he never left Tallahassee after graduating from North Florida Christian in 2002.

"Those guys are legends here," Sims says. "This university has seen so many; I think to be like them and where they are is a goal of all the linebackers here."

Sims is part of possibly the best linebacker trio in the country, with senior A.J. Nicholson and junior Buster Davis. The three combined for 28.5 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks last season, with each finishing among the top four in tackles on the team.

"Last year, we were among the top [producers] on our defense," Sims says. "All of us have a competitiveness about us, as to who can make the biggest hit or have the most interceptions."

And with the Seminoles losing their starting QB and two receivers to graduation last year, the defense may be called upon to keep the team in games early this season. That's just fine by Sims.

"I believe the defense is one of the strong points on this team; there's a lot of strong athletes," Sims says. "I don't see a whole lot of people scoring over seven [points] on us ... Our goal is to keep people under 15 every game."

"Our offense is going to depend on our defense, so there will be times when we need to bring the whole team up."

—Matt McKenzie



# BOSTON COLLEGE

EAGLES



CHESTNUT HILL, MASS.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 4-2 Big East (beat North Carolina in the Continental Tire Bowl, 37-24)

Stadium: Alumni Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 44,500

Official athletic Web site: www.bceagles.com



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:



2

Head coach: Tom O'Brien, 9th Year (57-39) Career Record: 57-39

Assistant coaches: Jerry Petercuskie (asst. head coach/recruiting coord./special teams), Dana Bible (off. coord./QB/WRs), Jim Bridge (TEs), Frank Spaziani (def. coord.), Don Horton (off. line), Kevin Lempa (def. backs), Bill McGovern (LBs), Jason Swenson (RBs), Keith Willis (def. line)

## Talent-laden defense will allow Eagles to fly high in first season on Tobacco Road

Neither Virginia Tech nor Miami found its inaugural season in the ACC overwhelming after bolting the Big East. A year later, look for another former Big East member, Boston College, to thrive in its new surroundings.

In eight seasons under Tom O'Brien, a former Virginia assistant whose record as a head coach is 57-39, the Eagles have steadily raised their national profile. Not since 1998 has BC failed to win at least seven games, winning at least eight in each of the last four years. The Eagles posted a 9-3 record in the 2004 campaign and were ranked No. 21 at season's end. There's no reason to believe they will descend into mediocrity as ACC members.

In 2004, BC finished 4-2 in the Big East to earn a share of the conference title. Had the Eagles not stumbled in the regular-season finale against Syracuse, losing 43-17 without their starting quarterback, they would have won the Big East title outright and advanced to the BCS. Instead, they traveled to the heart of ACC country, Charlotte, N.C., and took out their disappointment on one of their soon-to-be ACC brethren, whipping North Carolina 37-24 in the Continental Tire Bowl. The postseason victory was BC's fifth straight.

Will O'Brien's ninth team enter its regular-season finale bidding for a BCS berth? Probably not. But this won't be a team that ACC counterparts are eager to face. BC's players are well-coached, experienced and rugged. The class that O'Brien landed in February wasn't as highly regarded as some he's had, but the former Marine picked up a valuable "recruit" for 2005 when All-American Mathias Kiwanuka announced he would return for his senior year.

A 6-7, 261-pound defensive end, Kiwanuka was the Big East Defensive Player of the Year in 2004. He had 24.5 tackles for loss, including 11.5 sacks, and should be a force in the ACC as well.

Seven starters are back on offense and eight on defense. The latter group includes not only Kiwanuka but senior Will Blackmon, who made the All-Big East second team last season at cornerback and return specialist. Blackmon, an exceptional athlete, may play some offense as well this year. He worked exclusively at wide receiver

during spring practice, after which O'Brien said a final decision on where Blackmon would line up this fall wouldn't come until the end of summer.

In BC's spring game, Blackmon led all receivers with 10 catches for 135 yards.

Paul Peterson, who sparked at quarterback last season, passing for 2,594 yards and 18 touchdowns, is gone. But O'Brien hasn't been forced to turn the job over to a rookie. Fifth-year senior Quinton Porter, who started 10 games in 2003, is back after redshirting last season. Two years ago, Porter passed for 1,764 yards and 14 TDs before injuring his hand late in the season. Porter edged sophomore Matt Ryan for the starting job during spring practice.

Sitting out last season wasn't easy for Porter, but "I think it was a good thing for him," O'Brien says. "He was able to take in a lot of things and learn from them."

Porter says: "It was definitely frustrating at times. There were a lot of times when you want to be out there and you're thinking, 'Hey, I could make that play.' Obviously, that's just the way it is. I'm a very competitive guy."

The 6-5, 233-pound Porter has three talented tailbacks to hand off to in Andre Callender, L.V. Whitworth and A.J. Brooks. Together, they rushed for 1,579 yards and 10 touchdowns last year. Callender led the way with 637 yards.

"That's such a great position for our team to be in," Porter says, "to have three running backs who can step up and get some positive yardage for you."

Their lead blocker again will be fullback Mark Palmer, a 6-3, 245-pound junior. There's plenty of beef up front as well. All five starters on the line are back, led by senior center Pat Ross and senior tackle Jeremy Trueblood, both All-Big East second-team selections in 2004.

Boston College likes to bill itself as "O-line U." That qualified as false advertising last year. The Eagles' line was solid but didn't distinguish itself the way many of its predecessors had.

"Last year we had some growing pains," says O'Brien, who believes his returning players should be better prepared in 2005 "to live up to our expectations for offensive linemen at Boston College."

Back in addition to Ross and Trueblood, a 6-9, 330-pound giant, are sophomore tackle Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 310) and junior guards Josh Gorman and James Marten (6-8, 313). David Kashetta, a second-team All-Big East pick at



WILL BLACKMON, WR/CB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S. 10	Army	
S. 17	Florida State	
S. 24	@CLEMSON	
O. 1	Ball State	19-11
O. 8	Virginia	
O. 15	Wake Forest	14-17
O. 27	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N. 5	@NORTH CAROLINA	
N. 12	North Carolina State	
N. 19	@MARYLAND	

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15

Lettermen returning/lost: 39/15

### OFFENSE

QB	15	Quinton Porter (6-5, 233, Sr.)
FB	49	Mark Palmer (6-3, 245, Jr.)
TB	32	Andre Callender (5-11, 199, So.)
LT	72	Jeremy Trueblood (6-9, 330, Sr.)
LG	70	James Marten (6-8, 313, Jr.)
C	66	Patrick Ross (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RG	75	Josh Beekman (6-2, 320, Jr.)
RT	77	Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 310, So.)
TE	88	Chris Miller (6-5, 258, Sr.)
WR	6	Larry Lester (5-8, 183, Sr.)
WR	1	Will Blackmon (6-0, 202)

### DEFENSE

DE	94	Mathias Kiwanuka (6-7, 261, Sr.)
DT	56	Al Washington (6-1, 280, Sr.)
DT	58	Justin Bell (6-3, 308, Jr.)
DE	57	Nick Larkin (6-4, 246, So.)
OLB	16	Brian Toal (6-1, 223, So.)
MLB	3	Ray Henderson (6-3, 227, Sr.)
OLB	55	Ricky Brown (6-2, 228, Sr.)
CB	27	DeJuan Tribble (5-9, 187, So.)
CB	4	Jazzmen Williams (5-8, 181, Sr.)
FS	9	Larry Anam (6-0, 197, Jr.)
SS	24	Ryan Glasper (6-0, 205, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Ryan Ohliger (5-9, 195, So.)
P	46	Johnny Ayers (5-11, 179, So.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Pat Sheil, OL**  
Ranked among top 10 prospects in Virginia.
2. **Matt Tennant, OL**  
Product of storied Cincinnati Moeller program.
3. **Mike McLaughlin, LB**  
One of the top five prospects in New England.
4. **Andre Jones, DB**  
Versatile athlete; has played QB, WR, DB and RB.
5. **Paul Anderson, DB**  
First-team All-New York City as a senior.

ACC ATLANTIC





## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	BC	OPP
SCORING	347	203
Points Per Game	28.9	16.9
FIRST DOWNS	242	213
Rushing	92	79
Passing	130	122
Penalty	20	12
RUSHING YARDAGE	1681	1546
Yards gained rushing	1993	1823
Yards lost rushing	312	277
Rushing Attempts	449	441
Average Per Rush	3.7	3.5
Average Per Game	140.1	128.8
TDs Rushing	12	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2944	2448
Att-Comp-Int	426-256-13	396-231-17
Average Per Pass	6.9	6.2
Average Per Catch	11.5	10.6
Average Per Game	245.3	204.0
TDs Passing	20	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	4625	3994
Total Plays	875	837
Average Per Play	5.3	4.8
Average Per Game	385.4	332.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	38-998	50-760
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-392	25-179
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-136	13-232
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	26.3	15.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.9	7.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.0	17.8
FUMBLES-LOST	16-9	15-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	87-699	76-697
Average Per Game	58.2	58.1
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2479	80-3210
Average Per Punt	39.3	40.1
Net punt average	36.5	35.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:11	29:49
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/196	73/193
3rd-Down Pct.	38%	38%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/23	7/15
4th-Down Pct.	52%	47%
SACKS BY-YARDS	24-139	23-136
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	37	23
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	31-20	14-21
PAT-ATTEMPTS	32-35	21-23
ATTENDANCE	215952	240239
Games/Avg Per Game	5/43190	6/40040
Neutral Site Games		1/70412

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Boston College	85	77	48	86	0	296
Opponents	64	60	40	36	3	203

2004  
INDIVIDUAL STATS  
OFFENSE

## PASSING

<b>Paul Peterson</b>	GP	Eff.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	11	134.73	355-221-10	62.3	2594	18	235.8
<b>Matt Ryan</b>	GP	Eff.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	7	91.55	71-35-3	49.3	350	2	50.0

<b>RUSHING</b>	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Andre Callender	9	138	637	4.6	2	70.8
L.V. Whitworth	9	143	623	4.4	5	69.2
A.J. Brooks	7	57	319	5.6	3	45.6

<b>RECEIVING</b>	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Grant Adams	12	52	745	14.3	3	62.1
Larry Lester	8	35	515	14.7	2	64.4
Joel Hazard	12	34	413	12.1	5	34.4

## DEFENSE

<b>TACKLES</b>	GP	Solo	Asst.	Total
Ricky Brown	12	52	29	81
Brian Toal	12	37	40	77
Ray Henderson	12	33	42	75

<b>SACKS</b>	GP	No.	Yds.
Mathias Kiwanuka	12	11.5	82
Tim Bulman	12	4.5	25
Phil Mettling	11	3.0	14

<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ray Henderson	6	52	8.7	0
Will Blackmon	3	9	3.0	0
Mathias Kiwanuka	2	32	16.0	1

tight end, exhausted his eligibility. His probable replacement is senior Chris Miller, who caught 20 passes last year.

The Blackmon-at-wideout experiment was partly a response to the departures of Grant Adams and Joel Hazard, who had 51 career starts between them. Adams, who made the All-Big East second team, led the Eagles with 52 catches for 745 yards (3 TDs) last year. Hazard had a team-high five TD receptions and 34 catches overall.

Some experience returns at wideout, however, most notably in the 5-8 frame of senior Larry Lester. BC's second-leading receiver in 2004, Lester had 35 catches for 515 yards in only eight games. Also back are juniors Jason Lilly and Tony Gonzalez, whose acrobatic 30-yard touchdown catch with 54 seconds left lifted BC to a dramatic win over Notre Dame last season.

Veteran defensive coordinator Frank Spaziani has few holes to fill. His biggest losses were tackle Tim Bulman and safety T.J. Stancil, both second-team all-conference picks. They'll be tough to replace, but BC has veterans at virtually every other spot on the defense.

For the first time in O'Brien's tenure at Chestnut Hill, he has all three of his starting linebackers back. The old men of the corps are seniors Ray Henderson and Ricky Brown. The baby is sophomore Brian Toal, who as a true freshman in 2004 was named Big East Rookie of the Year.

The 6-3, 227-pound Henderson, who plays in the middle, was a second-team All-Big East selection. Few college 'backers are better in coverage than Henderson, who led BC with six interceptions and broke up three other passes.

Brown, with 81 stops, was the Eagles' leading tackler, and Toal was second with 77. Brown also recovered two fumbles and forced two others.

IN PROFILE ...  
MATHIAS KIWANUKA

*Massive defensive end hopes decision to stay will improve draft status, BC's quest for a title*

Shortly after Boston College's victory over North Carolina in the Continental Tire Bowl last December, Mathias Kiwanuka stood on the field, trying to soak up the atmosphere.

At the time, Kiwanuka had not yet decided whether to forgo his senior season for the NFL Draft, where analysts said he would have been a first-round pick.

"It was very emotional," the 6-7, 261-pound defensive end recalls. "I didn't know if it was my last game, and I realized how much I would miss these guys."

In the end, Kiwanuka decided the NFL could wait one more season. He returns to the Eagles as an All-America shoo-in and one of the top candidates for the Nagurski Award, given to the nation's top defensive player.

Kiwanuka says many things factored in to his decision to stay, but mainly he was interested in improving his game. But how much better can you get than the reigning Big East Defensive Player of the Year?

Assuming Blackmon lines up in his customary spot at cornerback at least some of the time, Boston College's secondary should be another strength. Starter Ryan Glasper is back at strong safety, as is backup Jamie Silva. At free safety, junior Larry Anam is expected to take over for Stancil, who excelled at run support. Senior Jazzmen Williams, who's only 5-foot-8, returns at cornerback. During Blackmon's absence in the spring, sophomore DeJuan Tribble got extensive work at the other corner spot.

The line faces the big rebuilding job on the defense, with only Kiwanuka and senior tackle Al Washington back from the starting front four. Candidates at the other tackle spot include junior Justin Bell, sophomore B.J. Raji and redshirt freshman Ron Brace. To bolster the depth at end, O'Brien moved Jeff Burns there from linebacker and sophomore Ryan Thompson from tight end in the spring. Sophomore Nick Larkin and junior Jake Ottolini saw significant action there at the end of last season and are competing for a starting job.

Blackmon averaged 11.3 yards on punt returns and 27.2 yards on kickoff returns in 2004, returning one of each for a TD. His return bodes well for BC's special teams. Also back are punter Johnny Ayers, who missed spring practice while playing baseball for the Eagles, and kicker Ryan Ohliger.

Ayers averaged 39.3 yards as a true freshman last year. Classmate Ohliger made 13 of 19 field goals and 31 of 34 extra points. More impressive, perhaps, was his 21-yard run for a touchdown in the Continental Tire Bowl on a fake field goal. Ohliger, who'd been a running back in high school, broke two tackles on his way to the end zone against North Carolina in a play that clinched the Eagles' postseason win.



"There are still some areas in my game that were gray," says Kiwanuka, who has 28 sacks in his three seasons with the Eagles. "It was a new experience being double teamed and chipped [last year], so I want to have that perfected and be confident in my ability. I also talked to a lot of NFL veterans, and one thing they said is how they wished they had another year in college from a social standpoint."

Nicknamed "Kiwi" by his teammates, Kiwanuka is of Ugandan descent, where his parents, Emmanuel and Deodata, hail from originally. His grandfather, Benedicto, was the first prime minister of Uganda in 1961, but was later ordered to be assassinated in 1972 by notorious Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. To remember both his grandfather and his heritage, Kiwanuka has a Ugandan flag hanging in his room and last year received a tattoo of the Ugandan presidential seal on his back.

His heritage also helps Kiwanuka stay humble, as he's projected by most experts as the top defensive-line prospect in the 2006 NFL Draft.

"At times everything can be a little overwhelming," he says of the newfound fame. "But I haven't let anything get to me, because just as fast as it all comes, it can go away."

—Matt McKenzie



# CLEMSON TIGERS



CLEMSON, S.C.

2004 Record: 6-5, 4-4 ACC

Stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.clemsonigers.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 81,473

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

9 7 7 9 6  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

3

Head coach: Tommy Bowden, 7th Year (44-29) Career Record: 62-33

Assistant coaches: Rob Spence (off. coord./QBs), Vic Koenning (def. coord.), Marion Hobby (DL), Dabo Swinney (WRs), Burton Burns (RBs), David Blackwell (LBs/recruiting coord.), Brad Scott (asst. head coach/off. line), Jack Hines (TEs), Ron West (DL)



CHARLIE WHITEHURST, QB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Texas A&M	6-27
S. 10	@MARYLAND	10-7
S. 17	Miami (FL)	24-17 (OT)
S. 24	Boston College	
O. 1	@WAKE FOREST	37-30 (OT)
O. 13	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	26-20
O. 22	Temple	
O. 29	@GEORGIA TECH	24-28
N. 5	Duke	13-16
N. 12	Florida State	22-41
N. 19	@SOUTH CAROLINA	29-7

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/17

### OFFENSE

QB	6	Charlie Whitehurst (6-4, 225, Sr.)
FB	36	Cliff Harrell (6-1, 250, Sr.)
TB	37	Reggie Merriweather (5-8, 215, Jr.)
LT	79	Barry Richardson (6-7, 350, So.)
LG	64	Chip Myrick (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	62	Dustin Fry (6-2, 315, Jr.)
RG	63	Nathan Bennett (6-5, 315, Jr.)
RT	75	Marion Dukes (6-4, 315, Jr.)
TE	81	Bobby Williamson (6-3, 255, Sr.)
WR	2	Chansi Stuckey (6-0, 190, Jr.)
WR	88	Kelvin Grant (6-2, 215, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

BAN	93	Gaines Adams (6-5, 250, Jr.)
NG	7	Cory Groover (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DT	92	Trey Tate (6-4, 275, Sr.)
DE	86	Charles Bennett (6-4, 245, Sr.)
SLB	20	Tramaine Billie (6-1, 205, Jr.)
MLB	40	Anthony Waters (6-3, 235, Jr.)
WLB	32	Nick Watkins (6-2, 210, So.)
CB	8	Tye Hill (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	15	Sergio Gilliam (6-3, 175, Jr.)
FS	24	Jamaal Fudge (5-10, 190, Sr.)
CAT	12	C.J. Gaddis (6-0, 205, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	7	Jad Dean (5-11, 208, Jr.)
P	30	Cole Chason (6-0, 163, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- James Davis, TB**  
Rushed for 2,500 yards and 28 TDs as a senior.
- Antonio Clay, LB**  
Turned down Miami, FSU and Oklahoma.
- Corey Lambert, OL**  
Consensus top-25 tackle who goes 6-7, 300.
- Josh Miller, LB**  
Returned three INTs for TDs in high school career.
- Rendrick Taylor, WR**  
A big receiving target at 6-2, 215 pounds.

ACC ATLANTIC

## Bowden hopes ex-Toledo offensive coordinator can help Whitehurst, Tigers' offense bounce back from poor '04

Considering they started 1-4, the Tigers could take a measure of pride in the 6-5 record with which they finished in 2004, especially since they crushed archrival South Carolina in the finale.

Still, it was clear the program had stalled. Among ACC teams, Clemson (6-5, 4-4) ranked eighth in both scoring offense and scoring defense last year, which didn't go over well with coach Tommy Bowden (44-29 in six seasons).

In December, Bowden fired three of his assistants, including both coordinators. Their replacements, especially offensive coordinator Rob Spence, have Clemson fans buzzing. Spence, whose offenses at Toledo put up huge numbers, has incorporated a greater emphasis on the running game into the spread offense for which Bowden is known.

Moreover, Spence has scrapped the Tigers' tactic of hurrying to the line of scrimmage and then waiting for the play-call from the sideline, a maneuver that hasn't paid dividends in recent years. He's also cut down on use of the shotgun formation.

On defense, the new boss is Vic Koenning, who built a strong reputation as coordinator at Troy State. Koenning inherits six returning starters at Clemson, but must replace some serious talent. Among those gone from 2004 are linebacker LeRoy Hill, the ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and cornerback Justin Miller, who left early for the NFL. Miller made the All-ACC second team as a defensive back and a return specialist. Other key losses include safety Travis Pugh, the Tigers' second-leading tackler last fall, and tackle Eric Coleman, who had five sacks.

Clemson's top returning tackler is linebacker Anthony Waters, a 6-3, 235-pound junior. Also back at linebacker is junior Tramaine Billie. Hill's probable replacement is sophomore Nick Watkins, who made 53 stops last season.

Anchoring the secondary will be All-ACC candidates Tye Hill and Jamaal Fudge, a senior cornerback and senior safety, respectively. Hill is a former 100-meter outdoor champion in ACC track, while Fudge intercepted three passes last season. Junior Sergio Gilliam is likely to fill the other corner spot, and C.J. Gaddis has impressed at safety.

Up front, two starters return: senior end Charles Bennett and senior tackle Trey Tate. Bennett had 14 tackles for loss in 2004 and has All-ACC potential. Junior Gaines Adams will start at the other end. The projected starter at the other spot inside is senior Cory Groover, who was shot in the leg outside a South Carolina restaurant in May. Groover is expected to fully recover from his wound.

How well the Tigers fare this season will probably hinge on the play of senior quarterback Charlie Whitehurst. In 2003, when Clemson went 9-4, Whitehurst passed for 3,561 yards and 21 touchdowns. In 2004, he threw more than twice as many interceptions (17) as TD passes (seven) and completed a modest 50.7 percent of his attempts, for 2,067 yards. Among ACC quarterbacks, Whitehurst ranked last in passing efficiency. That's not indicative of his talent. Whitehurst holds more than 30 school records, including career-passing yardage (7,182), and has a chance to become the first Clemson QB to go 4-0 against South Carolina.

Six other starters return on offense. Four of the team's top five receivers from 2004 are back, but the one who's gone was the best of the bunch. Airese Currie led the ACC in catches and receiving yardage and was the first Clemson receiver named first-team all-conference in 13 years. The Tigers' go-to receiver this season may well be junior Chansi Stuckey, who had 25 catches for 280 yards in 2004. Stuckey tied a Clemson spring-game record this year with 11 catches for 124 yards. Other targets for Whitehurst include freshman Aaron Kelly, senior Curtis Baham and junior Kelvin Grant.

The Tigers' leading rusher in 2004, junior tailback Reggie Merriweather (670 yards, 11 TDs), returns. The status of senior Duane Coleman, the team's top rusher in 2003, is less certain. Coleman was suspended indefinitely during spring practice after an argument with the coaching staff.

The line has more talent than experience. Both tackles are back: junior Marion Dukes and sophomore Barry Richardson, who started eight games, the most by a true-freshman offensive lineman in school history. The veteran is junior guard Nathan Bennett. Back for a second stint at tight end is senior Bobby Williamson, who moved to defense last year and recorded five sacks.





MARIO WILLIAMS, DE



# N.C. STATE WOLFPACK

RALEIGH, N.C.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 ACC  
Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium  
Official athletic Web site: www.gopack.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 56,800

PRESEASON RANK: FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

4

8 7 11 8 5  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Chuck Amato, 6th Year (39-23) Career Record: 39-23

Assistant coaches: Michael Barry (off. line), Curt Cignetti (TEs/recruiting coord.), Manny Diaz (safeties), Dwayne Dixon (WRs), Steve Dunlap (def. coord./LBs), Dick Portee (RBs), Todd Stroud (asst. head coach/def. line), Marc Trestman (off. coord./QB), Greg Williams (CBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Virginia Tech	17-16
S. 10	@TEMPLE	
S. 17	Eastern Kentucky	
S. 24	North Carolina	24-30
O. 6	@GEORGIA TECH	14-24
O. 13	Clemson	20-26
O. 22	@WAKE FOREST	27-21 (OT)
O. 29	Southern Miss	
N. 5	@FLORIDA STATE	10-17
N. 12	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
N. 26	Maryland	13-3

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/18

### OFFENSE

QB	10 Jay Davis (6-2, 220, Sr.)
HB	21 Tramain Hall (5-10, 190, Sr.)
TB	20 Reggie Davis (6-1, 233, Jr.)
LT	78 James Newby (6-5, 295, Jr.)
LG	62 Dwayne Herndon (6-3, 286, Sr.)
C	64 Leroy Harris (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG	75 John McKeon (6-5, 307, Sr.)
RT	71 Derek Morris (6-6, 333, Jr.)
TE	80 T.J. Williams (6-3, 253, Sr.)
FLK	87 Brian Clark (6-3, 205, Sr.)
SE	13 LaMart Barrett (6-1, 190, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	9 Mario Williams (6-7, 285, Jr.)
DT	90 John McCargo (6-2, 295, Jr.)
DT	72 Tank Tyler (6-2, 294, Jr.)
RE	91 Manny Lawson (6-5, 245, Jr.)
SLB	50 Stephen Tulloch (5-11, 230, Jr.)
MLB	56 Pat Lowery (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WLB	22 Oliver Hoyte (6-3, 252, Sr.)
LCB	3 A.J. Davis (5-10, 188, Jr.)
RCB	1 Marcus Hudson (6-2, 200, Sr.)
FS	4 J.J. Jones (6-0, 178, Sr.)
ROV	19 Garland Heath (6-2, 220, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	12 John Deraney (6-4, 215, Jr.)
P	12 John Deraney (6-4, 215, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Toney Baker, TB**  
Parade All-American ran for 10,220 career yards.
- Curtis Crouch, OL**  
Six-foot-6, 320-pounder has chance to play now.
- Andre Brown, TB**  
Prep-schooler rushed for 3,479 yards in 2003.
- Kyle Newell, WR**  
Will offer a huge target at 6-5, 220 pounds.
- J.C. Neal, WR**  
Also starred at RB and DB in high school.

## Offseason upheaval slows Wolfpack on road back from disappointing '04 campaign

Life without Philip Rivers was no fun for the Wolfpack in 2004. For the first time in five seasons under Chuck Amato, N.C. State (5-6, 3-5) won fewer than seven games and failed to advance to a bowl game. Amato's first four seasons as head coach at his alma mater, of course, coincided with Rivers' run as quarterback, and the Wolfpack went 34-17 during that period.

A season ago, State led the nation in total defense, allowing 221.4 yards per game, but ranked 78th in total offense. Rivers' replacement, Jay Davis, threw more interceptions (15) than touchdown passes (12), and the Wolfpack's top tailback, T.A. McLendon, continued his career-long battle with injuries.

"Last season did not turn out the way we wanted it to, but sometimes a step backwards can help you take three steps forward," says Amato, whose team opens Sept. 3 at home against reigning ACC champion Virginia Tech.

The offseason didn't start on a good note for Amato either. He lost three assistants: offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone to Mississippi, defensive coordinator Reggie Herring to Arkansas and assistant head coach Doc Holliday to Florida. Their replacements are Marc Trestman (offensive coordinator), Steve Dunlap (defensive coordinator) and Dwayne Dixon (wide receivers).

Trestman, the Miami Dolphins' assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach in 2004, also has been offensive coordinator for Miami, Arizona, San Francisco and Cleveland in the NFL. At N.C. State, he inherits seven returning starters, including Davis (2,104 yards passing), who should be more comfortable leading the attack. Sophomore Marcus Stone, a better runner than thrower, also returns at QB.

The Wolfpack's losses on offense were significant. McLendon, the sixth-leading rusher in school history, left early for the NFL, going undrafted. Wide receiver Richard Washington was dismissed from the team, and standout offensive linemen Jed Paulsen (center) and Chris Colmer (tackle) exhausted their eligibility, with Colmer being a third-round draft choice of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Even without McLendon, though, the Pack is loaded at tailback, with such players as

Bobby Washington, Darrell Blackman and Reggie Davis returning. And watch out for true freshman Toney Baker, one of the nation's most heralded recruits.

The versatile Tramain Hall returns to play NCSU's hybrid halfback position. Hall, a senior, has totaled 97 receptions and 1,123 yards receiving in his career. Senior T.J. Williams, the Wolfpack's leader in catches (31) and receiving yards (382) last year, is back at tight end. Trestman's options at wideout include veterans Brian Clark, LaMart Barrett and Sterling Hicks. Another receiver, sophomore John Dunlap, started the final three games in 2004, but he's recovering from reconstructive knee surgery and may not be available this fall.

The returning starters on the line are junior tackle Derek Morris, senior guard John McKeon and junior Leroy Harris, an All-ACC candidate who has played guard and center, his position in the spring. In the mix at guard is senior Dwayne Herndon, a converted defensive tackle.

Dunlap, the defensive coordinator at Syracuse last year, walks into a great situation at N.C. State. The 'Pack has one of the nation's top defensive lines. Its leaders are ends Mario Williams, a 6-7, 285-pound junior, and Manny Lawson, a 6-5, 245-pound senior. Williams made the All-ACC first team in 2004, with Lawson making the second team. Lawson recorded seven sacks and Williams had 6.5.

Also back on this swift, swarming defense are tackles John McCargo and DeMarcus "Tank" Tyler plus linebackers Oliver Hoyte and Stephen Tulloch. Hoyte, a senior, led N.C. State in tackles last season with 93, and Tulloch had 75. Hoyte moved from middle to weakside linebacker in spring practice, which Tulloch sat out while recovering from shoulder surgery. Junior Pat Lowery, who led the Wolfpack in special-teams tackles last season, has a chance to start at middle linebacker.

Four regulars in the secondary departed, but senior Marcus Hudson, who started five games at free safety in 2004, is back at cornerback, his original position. Speedster A.J. Davis will probably start at the other corner. Possibilities at safety and rover include 6-2, 220-pound bruiseur Garland Heath, DaJuan Morgan, J.J. Jones and Miguel Scott.

What these defensive backs lack in experience they should make up for in speed and raw talent.

Junior John Deraney will again handle the placekicking and punt duties for State. Back fielding punts is Blackman, who ranked third nationally last year with a 17.8-yard return average.



# MARYLAND

## TERRAPINS



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 ACC

Official athletic Web site: www.umterps.com

The Terrapins, who could do little wrong in Ralph Friedgen's first three seasons as their coach, winning 31 games, fell back into the pack in 2004. Maryland (5-6, 3-5) dropped five of its last seven games, a free-fall that included a 55-6 loss to Virginia Tech on national TV.

Friedgen has long been renowned for his offensive wizardry, but his team struggled mightily to move the ball last year. The Terps finished ninth in the ACC in both rushing offense and passing offense and ranked ahead of only Duke (16.6 ppg) in scoring offense.

Maryland's defense, led by end Shawne Merriman, a first-round NFL draft pick, and linebacker D'Qwell Jackson, was solid, but poor quarterback play doomed the offense. Joel Statham ranked ninth among ACC quarterbacks in passing efficiency and threw nearly twice as many picks (15) as touchdowns (8). Friedgen turned to Sam Hollenbach in the regular-season finale, and he completed 22 of 36 passes for 229 yards in a win over Wake Forest.

Hollenbach, a 6-5 junior, came out of spring practice with a slight lead on Statham. Sophomore Jordan Steffy may be in the mix this fall, too, but he missed spring practice because of arm and knee injuries.

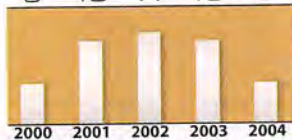
"We're better than what we were [at QB]," Friedgen says, "but we've got to continue to improve to be a good football team."

Statham, a junior, is one of six returning starters on offense. A seventh, tailback Josh Allen, is out for the season with a knee injury suffered against Wake. Gone is guard C.J. Brooks, one of three Terps to make the All-ACC first team in 2004 (along with Merriman and Jackson).

The offense's most dynamic player is H-back Vernon Davis, a 6-3, 250-pound junior with a wideout's speed. Davis led Maryland with 27 catches for 441 yards and three touchdowns. The top receivers are seniors Derrick Fenner and Jo Jo Walker, who like Davis are capable of making big plays if the quarterbacks can get the ball to them. At 6-8, 268 pounds, tight end Derek Miller is a formidable blocker.

Senior tackle Stephon Heyer is an All-ACC candidate with 24 career starts.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@NAVY	
S. 10	Clemson	7-10
S. 17	West Virginia	16-19 (OT)
S. 24	@WAKE FOREST	13-7
O. 1	Virginia	0-16
O. 8	@TEMPLE	45-22
O. 20	Virginia Tech	6-55
O. 29	@FLORIDA STATE	20-17
N. 12	@NORTH CAROLINA	
N. 19	Boston College	
N. 26	@NC STATE	3-13

Head coach: Ralph Friedgen,

5th Year (36-14)

Career Record: 36-14

Stadium: Byrd Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 51,500

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/21

### OFFENSE

QB	14 Sam Hollenbach (6-5, 217, Jr.)
FB	5 Ricardo Dickerson (6-1, 251, Sr.)
TB	8 Mario Merrills (5-10, 202, Sr.)
LT	70 Stephon Heyer (6-6, 321, Sr.)
LG	69 Donnie Woods (6-3, 291, So.)
C	63 Andrew Crummey (6-5, 292, So.)
RG	77 Russell Bonham (6-2, 315, Sr.)
RT	58 Brandon Nixon (6-6, 310, So.)
TE	84 Derek Miller (6-8, 268, Sr.)
WR	83 Derrick Fenner (5-11, 191, Sr.)
WR	9 Jo Jo Walker (5-9, 171, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	98 Omarr Savage (6-5, 258, So.)
NT	92 Dre Moore (6-4, 296, So.)
DT	95 Conrad Bolston (6-3, 284, Jr.)
RE	50 Jermaine Lemons (6-1, 248, So.)
SLB	54 David Holloway (6-2, 222, Jr.)
MLB	52 D'Qwell Jackson (6-0, 225, Sr.)
WLB	48 William Kershaw (6-3, 227, Sr.)
LCB	38 Gerrick McPhearson (5-10, 194, Sr.)
RCB	25 Josh Wilson (5-9, 183, Jr.)
FS	23 Christian Varner (5-11, 195, So.)
SS	12 Marcus Wimbush (5-11, 205, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	11 Dan Ennis (6-0, 151, Jr.)
P	36 Adam Podlesh (5-11, 193, Jr.)

# WAKE FOREST

## DEMON DEACONS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 1-7 ACC

Official athletic Web site: www.wakeforestsports.com

Forgive the Demon Deacons if they look back on 2004 and wonder what might have been.

For the first time in four seasons under coach Jim Grobe, Wake (4-7, 1-7) failed to win at least five games. Of the Deacons' seven defeats, however, only the 52-7 loss at Miami was a rout. Wake lost twice in overtime, two other times by seven points, once by six and once by three.

Grobe, 22-25 at Wake, is a solid coach, and his team has enough firepower to finish in the middle of the Atlantic Division pack and qualify for a bowl. But to do so, the Deacons must find a way to win close games. Nine starters return on offense; 10 if sophomore Ben Mauk is included. Mauk started the final three games at quarterback last season after taking over for Cory Randolph. A senior with 20 career starts, Randolph trailed Mauk slightly coming out of their spring competition, but Grobe won't pick a starter until preseason.

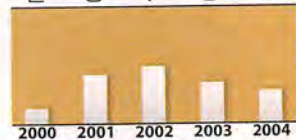
There's no debate about which tailback is Wake's best. Senior Chris Barclay, second-team All-ACC in 2003, was a first-team choice last year. He was one of only two ACC players to rush for more than 1,000 yards in 2004, finishing with 1,010 and nine touchdowns. Barclay needs 907 yards to become Wake's all-time leading rusher.

The only starters gone from the Deacons' 2004 offense are wideout Jason Anderson and center Blake Lingruen. Sophomore Zac Selmon is back at tight end and junior Steve Vallos at tackle. Vallos made second-team All-ACC last season after starting at four positions.

Seven receivers who lettered last year are back, led by senior Chris Davis and juniors Nate Morton and Willie Idlette. Davis had six receptions for 123 yards in Wake's spring game.

From a defense that held five opponents, including ACC champion Virginia Tech, to fewer than 20 points, second-team all-conference cornerback Eric King is gone. Five starters are back: sophomore end Matt Robinson, senior tackle Goryal Scales, sophomore middle linebacker Jonathan Abbate and junior safeties Patrick Ghee and Josh Gattis. The 5-11, 245-pound Abbate was the second-leading vote-getter in balloting for ACC Rookie of the Year.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Vanderbilt	
S. 10	@NEBRASKA	
S. 17	East Carolina	31-17
S. 24	Maryland	7-13
O. 1	Clemson	30-37 (OT)
O. 8	@FLORIDA STATE	17-20
O. 15	@BOSTON COLLEGE	17-14
O. 22	North Carolina State	21-27 (OT)
O. 29	@DUKE	24-22
N. 5	@GEORGIA TECH	
N. 17	Miami (FL)	7-52

Head coach: Jim Grobe,  
5th Year, (22-25)

Career Record: 55-58-1

Stadium: Groves Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 31,500

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/18

### OFFENSE

QB	8 Ben Mauk (6-1, 200, r-So.)
FB	35 Richard Belton (6-1, 240, r-Fr.)
TB	28 Chris Barclay (5-10, 180, Sr.)
LT	72 Wesley Bryant (6-4, 300, r-Sr.)
LG	61 Arby Jones (6-3, 277, r-Jr.)
C	66 Greg Adkins (6-3, 292, r-Sr.)
RG	79 Matthew Brim (6-4, 288, r-So.)
RT	75 Steve Vallos (6-3, 297, r-Jr.)
TE	84 Zac Selmon (6-5, 237, r-So.)
WR	5 Chris Davis (5-10, 180, Sr.)
WR	14 Kevin Marion (5-10, 160, r-So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	42 Matt Robinson (6-2, 230, r-So.)
DT	95 Zach Stukes (6-2, 260, r-So.)
DT	57 Goryal Scales (6-0, 273, r-Sr.)
DE	98 Jeremy Thompson (6-5, 250, So.)
SLB	44 Jason Pratt (6-0, 230, r-Jr.)
MLB	40 Jon Abbate (5-11, 245, r-So.)
WLB	51 Pierre Easley (6-0, 245, r-Jr.)
CB	7 Riley Swanson (5-11, 188, r-Jr.)
CB	23 Johnny Edwards (5-10, 188, r-So.)
FS	22 Josh Gattis (6-1, 212, r-Jr.)
SS	30 Patrick Ghee (6-0, 202, r-Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	38 Sam Swank (6-1, 180, r-Fr.)
P	81 Ryan Plackemeier (6-4, 235, Sr.)





MARCUS VICK, QB

# VIRGINIA TECH

## HOKIES

STREET & SMITH'S  
**T25**  
SELECTION

BLACKSBURG, VA.

2004 Record: 10-3 overall, 7-1 ACC (lost to Auburn in the Sugar Bowl, 16-13)

Stadium: Lane Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,115

Official athletic Web site: [www.hokiesports.com](http://www.hokiesports.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Frank Beamer, 19th Year (135-77-2) Career Record: 177-100-4

Assistant coaches: Billy Hite (assoc. head coach/RBs), Bud Foster (def. coord./ILBs), Bryan Stinespring (off. coord./off. line), Jim Cavanaugh (recruiting coord./SS/OLBs), Tony Ball (WRs), Danny Pearman (TEs/off. tackles), Kevin Rogers (QBs), Lorenzo Ward (def. backfield), Charley Wiles (def. line)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	16-17
S. 10	@DUKE	41-17
S. 17	Ohio	
S. 24	Georgia Tech	34-20
O. 1	@WEST VIRGINIA	19-13
O. 8	Marshall	
O. 20	@MARYLAND	55-6
O. 27	Boston College	
N. 5	Miami (FL)	16-10
N. 19	@VIRGINIA	24-10
N. 26	North Carolina	27-24

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14

Lettermen returning/lost: 44/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	5	Marcus Vick (6-0, 212, r-Jr.)
FB	37	Jesse Allen (6-0, 244, r-Jr.)
TB	20	Mike Imoh (5-7, 195, Sr.)
LT	52	Jimmy Martin (6-5, 305, Sr.)
LG	66	Will Montgomery (6-3, 301, r-Sr.)
C	69	Danny McGrath (6-2, 283, r-Jr.)
RG	72	Jason Murphy (6-2, 303, r-Sr.)
RT	61	Reggie Butler (6-6, 344, Sr.)
TE	90	Jeff King (6-5, 246, r-Sr.)
FL	19	Josh Hyman (5-11, 188, r-So.)
FL	4	Eddie Royal (5-10, 174, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	96	Noland Burchette (6-2, 352, r-Jr.)
DT	99	Carlton Powell (6-2, 285, r-So.)
DT	56	Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 308, Sr.)
DE	55	Darryl Tapp (6-1, 268, Sr.)
LB	42	James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Sr.)
LB	9	Vince Hall (6-0, 246, r-So.)
LB	11	Xavier Adibi (6-2, 224, r-So.)
CB	15	Roland Minor (6-0, 198, r-So.)
CB	2	Jimmy Williams (6-3, 206, Sr.)
FS	25	D.J. Parker (5-11, 181, So.)
ROV	36	Aaron Rouse (6-3, 222, r-Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	46	Brandon Pace (5-10, 199, r-Jr.)
P	23	Nic Schmitt (6-1, 254, r-Jr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Victor "Macho" Harris, CB  
Parade All-American and top-rated recruit in Va.
2. Ike Whitaker, QB  
Offensive Player of the Year in the D.C. area.
3. Elan Lewis, TB  
Ran for 4,795 yards, 75 TDs last two prep seasons.
4. Deven Simmons, LB  
Punishing tackler with tremendous speed.
5. Greg Boone, QB  
At 6-4, 240 pounds, moves very well for a big QB.

## Hokies loaded at the skill positions, but can troubled new QB lead them to Vick-tory?

**F**rank Beamer is wary, and for good reason. The Hokies' longtime coach remembers 2003 all too well. With such stars as Kevin Jones, Jake Grove and DeAngelo Hall on the roster, Tech had serious talent that season and climbed to No. 3 in the polls. But the Hokies, beset by poor chemistry and selfishness, lost five of their final seven games to finish 8-5 and unranked.

"The guys on this team remember what happened around here two years ago, which wasn't too much fun. And they were here last year when we had a lot of fun. They understand what it takes and how a team that's united can win," Beamer says. "I think it is important for this football team to realize there's not anything guaranteed. What happened last fall doesn't guarantee anything."

What happened last fall to the Hokies turned out to be one of the better stories in college football. Picked by the media who cover the ACC to finish sixth in the conference, Tech (10-3, 7-1 ACC) instead rolled to the title and advanced to the Bowl Championship Series. After losing 17-16 at home to N.C. State on Sept. 25, the Hokies reeled off eight straight victories before falling 16-13 to unbeaten Auburn in the Sugar Bowl. And now, as he heads into his 19th season as coach at his alma mater, Beamer hears his team touted as a national title contender.

"I'm not going to talk about one poll," he says. "If you hear me talk about one poll, somebody's flipped. You need to start out and play each ballgame and go from there."

The Hokies have the reigning ACC Coach of the Year, but they must replace the 2004 ACC Player of the Year, quarterback Bryan Randall. That may not be as difficult as some believe, even though Randall supplied unparalleled leadership and poise under pressure. Ready to step in at QB is Marcus Vick, who was out of school last fall dealing with personal and legal issues. The 6-0 junior bears an uncanny physical resemblance to his famous big brother, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, and he has many of the same qualities as a football player. Like Mike, Marcus Vick mixes extraordinary elusiveness with a strong throwing arm.

On a warm April afternoon, a crowd estimated at 34,000 flocked to Lane Stadium to watch Tech's spring game. The main attraction unquestionably

was Vick, who'd last played for the Hokies in the 2003 Insight Bowl. He didn't disappoint. Two days after that game, Beamer announced that Vick had beaten out Sean Glennon for the starting job.

"As a defensive coordinator, he scares you," Hokies defensive coordinator Bud Foster says of Vick, who passed for 475 yards and two TDs as a redshirt freshman in 2003. "You can do everything right on defense and he still makes a play and moves the chains, either with his arm or his legs."

Beamer may want to temper expectations in Blacksburg, but it's clear to see why they're so high. Offensive coordinator Bryan Stinespring has seven starters back, and Foster has six. Other veterans include junior kicker Brandon Pace, who connected on 21 of 27 field goals and 43 of 44 extra points in 2004. Tech placed four players on the All-ACC first team last year. Three are back: Pace, senior defensive end Darryl Tapp and senior cornerback Jimmy Williams. Tapp and Williams enter the season as All-America candidates. With 8.5 sacks, the relentless Tapp tied for fourth in the ACC. Williams led the conference with five interceptions.

The Hokies must replace two members of the All-ACC second team in offensive tackle Jon Dunn and defensive lineman Jim Davis, but they return a third choice, tight end Jeff King. The 6-5, 246-pound senior, who had four touchdown catches in 2004, spent his winter playing for Tech's basketball team. His football coaches are glad he did.

"I don't think there's any question the basketball experience has made Jeff a better football player," Stinespring says. "You look at the film and you see a marked difference in the way he runs and the way he gets downfield. He is much quicker."

Rarely has Beamer had a team with more talent at the skill positions. At tailback, the diminutive Mike Imoh confounds defenders with his now-you-see-him-now-you-don't quickness, and 6-1, 233-pound Cedric Humes is a bruiser with surprising speed. Now seniors, they combined for 1,325 yards and 11 rushing touchdowns last season. Imoh rushed for 243 yards against North Carolina, the best effort by an ACC player last fall. As if Imoh and Humes weren't enough, the Hokies also have touted freshmen Brandon Ore and George Bell, each of whom redshirted in 2004.

"People ask me if I'm nervous about having all





those guys on the same team," Stinespring says. "Of course not. The more, the better."

Tech's top four wideouts from 2004 are back—Eddie Royal, Josh Hyman, David Clowney and Josh Morgan—as is Justin Harper, who caught five passes for 84 yards and a TD. Hyman led the Hokies with 491 yards receiving and five touchdown catches, and Royal, who had a team-high 28 receptions, scored what proved to be the winning touchdown against Miami at the Orange Bowl. Royal, Harper and Morgan were true freshmen last year, so this receiving corps should only get better.

With so much talent at quarterback, running back and receiver, only poor play up front is likely to stop this offense. Not surprisingly, the line was Beamer's greatest concern coming out of spring practice.

"It kind of showed the need for some of these guys on the offensive line to have a great summer," Beamer says.

Last year's center, Will Montgomery, worked at guard during spring drills, but he could end up back at center in the fall if Stinespring isn't sold on potential replacements Danny McGrath and Ryan Shuman. Elsewhere on the line, senior Jimmy Martin is back at tackle, while senior Jason Murphy returns at guard. The starters lost included Dunn, who went in the seventh round of the NFL Draft to Cleveland.

A season ago, the Hokies ranked No. 2 nationally in scoring defense (12.8 ppg). If the newcomers who join the 6-3, 206-pound Williams in the starting secondary aren't overwhelmed by the pace of Division I-A football, Tech could be equally stingy in 2005. The Hokies' front seven might be as strong as any in the country. Tapp and junior Noland Burchette are back as the starting ends, but Tech's most talented player at that position might be Chris Ellis, a 6-4,

255-pound sophomore who had 7.5 tackles for loss in 2004.

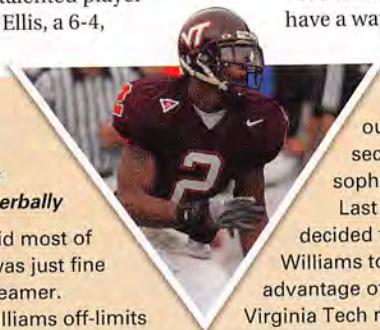
"He's big, he's athletic and he can run," defensive line coach Charley Wiles says. "He was phenomenal this spring, and he's got a chance to be a special player here."

All-ACC candidate Jonathan Lewis returns at one tackle spot. Competing for the other starting job inside are sophomores Carlton Powell and Kory Robertson and senior Tim Sandidge. Lewis had 11 tackles for loss last season, including five sacks. Senior James Anderson is the old man of the linebacking corps. Joining him on the first team are sophomores Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi. What they have in common is outstanding speed, a trademark of Foster's defenses at Tech. An injury marred Adibi's 2004 season, but he showed flashes of why he'd been such a coveted recruit coming out of high school. In limited action, he recorded two sacks, intercepted a pass and forced a fumble.

Three-quarters of the Hokies' first-team secondary from 2004 moved on, including cornerback Eric Green and safety Vincent Fuller, both NFL draftees. Also gone is rover James Griffin. Battling to start alongside Williams at corner are sophomore Roland Minor and redshirt freshmen Brandon Flowers and Theodore Miller. Aaron Rouse and Cary Wade split time at rover during spring practice, and D.J. Parker, Kent Hicks and Justin Hamilton are in the mix at safety.

Questions remain about this Tech team. For all his ability, will Vick earn and keep the respect of his teammates and coaches as Randall did? He has grown up, but will he be able to stay out of trouble? Can the offensive line and secondary compete at the levels a top-10 program needs?

"We understand as a football team we have a ways to go," Beamer says.



## IN PROFILE ...

### JIMMY WILLIAMS

*Williams' play at corner speaks volumes for Hokies—just not verbally*

Last year, Jimmy Williams did most of his talking on the field, which was just fine by Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer.

It was Beamer who made Williams off-limits to the media for almost eight months last year after Williams provided plenty of bulletin-board material prior to Virginia Tech's season opener with Southern Cal. Williams said he wanted Trojans star receiver Mike Williams to play (he didn't) so USC couldn't have any excuses when the Hokies upset the Trojans (they didn't).

Those were the last words Williams had for the media in 2004. His play on the field, however, spoke volumes, as the senior cornerback led the team in both interceptions (five) and pass breakups (14), getting named to the All-ACC first team in the process. One of those interceptions came in last year's Sugar Bowl, which the Hokies narrowly lost to Auburn, 16-13, when Williams picked off Tigers QB Jason Campbell.

Since arriving in Blacksburg, Va., in 2002, Williams has shifted positions, originally starting

out at free safety, where he was second on the team in tackles his sophomore year with 114.

Last spring, however, Beamer decided to switch the 6-3, 219-pound Williams to cornerback, hoping to take advantage of his size. The move paid off, as Virginia Tech ranked first in scoring defense and second in pass defense during its inaugural season in the ACC, with the Hokies also capturing the 2004 conference title.

Williams briefly flirted with the idea of skipping his final season, but decided to stay, partly because there was a strong influx of cornerbacks entering the 2005 NFL Draft. As it stands now, he is ranked as the top defensive back in the 2006 class, according to draft guru Mel Kiper.

And, shortly after Virginia Tech's spring game in April, Beamer finally decided to lift Williams' media ban. Williams told a group of reporters in Blacksburg that he has "grown up" since last year's incident and is ready to be a team leader. But he also admitted being silent to reporters was tough.

"I definitely missed you guys," he said.

—Matt McKenzie

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	VT	OPP
SCORING	400	167
Points Per Game	30.8	12.8
FIRST DOWNS	259	177
Rushing	127	77
Passing	108	84
Penalty	24	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	2317	1498
Yards gained rushing	2741	1865
Yards lost rushing	424	367
Rushing Attempts	552	462
Average Per Rush	4.2	3.2
Average Per Game	178.2	115.2
TDs Rushing	18	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2435	1986
Att-Comp-Int	319-179-9	332-180-19
Average Per Pass	7.6	6.0
Average Per Catch	13.6	11.0
Average Per Game	187.3	152.8
TDs Passing	24	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	4752	3484
Total Plays	871	794
Average Per Play	5.5	4.4
Average Per Game	365.5	268.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-726	47-1022
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	47-439	32-301
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-365	9-155
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.4	21.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	9.3	9.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	19.2	17.2
FUMBLES-LOST	23-10	30-13
PENALTIES-YARDS	100-831	102-832
Average Per Game	63.9	64.0
PUNTS-YARDS	60-2339	83-3492
Average Per Punt	39.0	42.1
Net punt average	34.0	36.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:57	29:03
3RD-DOWN CONV.	65/171	55/186
3rd-Down Pct	38%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/10	8/16
4th-Down Pct	40%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-183	36-247
MISC YARDS	32	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	48	18
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	21-27	14-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-46	17-17
ATTENDANCE	455805	201036
Games/Avg Per Game	7/65115	4/50259
Neutral Site Games		2/84507

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Virginia Tech	72	146	84	98	—	400
Opponents	33	48	40	46	—	167

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

<b>Bryan Randall</b>	GP	Eff.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	134.47	306-170-9	55.6	2264	21	174.2
<b>Sean Glennon</b>	GP	Eff.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	4	237.35	11-8-0	72.7	137	2	34.2

<b>RUSHING</b>	GP	ATT	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mike Imoh	10	158	720	4.6	72.0
Cedric Humes	13	130	605	4.7	46.5
Bryan Randall	13	136	511	3.8	39.3

<b>RECEIVING</b>	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Eddie Royal	12	28	470	16.8	3	39.2
Josh Hyman	13	27	491	18.2	5	37.8
Jeff King	13	25	304	12.2	4	23.4

### DEFENSE

<b>TACKLES</b>	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Mikal Baagoe	13	30	41	71
Vince Hall	13	21	43	64
Darryl Tapp	13	26	34	60

<b>SACKS</b>	GP	No.	Yds.
Darryl Tapp	13	8.5	54
Jim Davis	13	5.0	27
Jonathan Lewis	13	5.0	26

<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jimmy Williams	5	81	16.2	1
Vincent Fuller	3	12	4.0	0
Roland Minor	2	63	31.5	1





TYRONE MOSS, TB

# MIAMI HURRICANES



CORAL GABLES, FLA.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 5-3 ACC (beat Florida in the Peach Bowl, 27-10)

Stadium: Orange Bowl

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 72,319

Official athletic Web site: [www.hurricanesports.com](http://www.hurricanesports.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

2

11 12 12 11 9  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Larry Coker, 5th Year (44-6) Career Record: 44-6

Assistant coaches: Randy Shannon (def. coord.), Dan Werner (off. coord./QBs), Mario Cristobal (TEs), Vernon Hargreaves (LBs), Curtis Johnson (WRs), Art Kehoe (asst. head coach/off. line), Greg Mark (def. line), Don Soldinger (special teams/RBs), Tim Walton (def. backs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 5	@FLORIDA STATE	16-10 (OT)
S. 17	@CLEMSON	17-24 (OT)
S. 24	Colorado	
O. 1	South Florida	
O. 8	Duke	
O. 15	@TEMPLE	
O. 22	Georgia Tech	27-3
O. 29	North Carolina	28-31
N. 5	@VIRGINIA TECH	10-16
N. 17	@WAKE FOREST	52-7
N. 26	Virginia	31-21

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14

Lettermen returning/lost: 54/24

### OFFENSE

QB	3	Kyle Wright (6-5, 208, So.)
FB	23	Quadrine Hill (6-2, 221, Sr.)
TB	30	Tyrone Moss (5-10, 221, Jr.)
LT	74	Eric Winston (6-7, 310, Sr.)
LG	61	Tony Tella (6-5, 298, Sr.)
C	78	Anthony Wollschlaeger (6-6, 291, Jr.)
RG	68	Tyler McMeans (6-5, 337, Sr.)
RT	64	Rashad Butler (6-5, 286, Sr.)
TE	82	Greg Olsen (6-6, 247, So.)
SE	9	Lance Leggett (6-4, 175, So.)
FL	83	Sinorice Moss (5-8, 182, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	95	Bryan Pata (6-4, 267, Jr.)
DT	98	Baraka Atkins (6-4, 263, Jr.)
DT	92	Orien Harris (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RE	90	Thomas Carroll (6-5, 230, Sr.)
SLB	50	Rocky McIntosh (6-3, 237, Sr.)
MLB	44	Leon Williams (6-4, 237, Sr.)
WLB	51	Romeo Davis (6-2, 208, So.)
LCB	22	Kelly Jennings (6-0, 177, Sr.)
RCB	4	Devin Hester (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS	26	Anthony Reddick (6-0, 188, So.)
SS	19	Brandon Meriweather (6-1, 184, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Jon Peattie (6-3, 207, Jr.)
P	39	Brian Monroe (6-2, 201, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Kenny Phillips, S**  
USA Today's Defensive Player of the Year.
- Reggie Youngblood, OT**  
Parade All-American who'll likely start in 2006.
- A.J. Trump, OL**  
A mix of exceptional speed (4.8 in 40) and size.
- DajLeon Farr, TE**  
Will continue the Miami tradition of great TEs.
- Courtney Harris, DE**  
Like most Miami D-linemen, he's fast (4.7 in 40).

## There's pressure on Coker, 'Canes to show that 2004 season was an aberration

**B**y the Hurricanes' lofty standards, last season wasn't one to brag about. Yes, they closed on a high note by crushing Florida 27-10 in the Peach Bowl, but the 'Canes (9-3, 5-3) failed to win at least 10 games for the first time since 1999. Anyway, they'd entered their inaugural season in the ACC expecting to wind up in the Bowl Championship Series, not the Peach.

Miami's uneven play in the regular season cost it dearly. After opening with six straight wins, the Hurricanes suffered inexplicable losses to North Carolina and Clemson on back-to-back weekends. Then, in the regular-season finale, with a chance to clinch a share of the ACC title, Miami lost to nemesis Virginia Tech—at the Orange Bowl, no less.

And so the 'Canes went into the offseason with an unusual sense of urgency. So what if Larry Coker's record in four seasons as Miami's coach is 44-6? Another season like the last one, and some members of the Miami fan base undoubtedly will be screaming for a coaching change.

Fortunately for Coker, his team has the talent to return this season to what it considers its rightful place: the BCS.

Because of early departures to the NFL after the 2003 season, and a string of injuries, Miami's two-deep chart included numerous freshmen and sophomores in 2004. Starters missed a total of 39 games because of injuries last year, and the seasoning that Miami's youngsters gained should pay dividends this fall.

Miami's defense wasn't bad in 2004, allowing only 17.6 points per game and averaging 3.2 sacks. It should be much better this year. All-ACC cornerback Antrel Rolle is gone to the NFL, but 11 defenders who started at least five games apiece in 2004 are back. As usual, the 'Canes will use their exceptional speed to swarm to the football.

"The defense has a lot of energy," Coker says. "We're a tougher football team now than we were a year ago. Guys are stepping up and making some plays."

A shoulder injury sidelined defensive tackle Orien Harris during spring drills, but the 6-4, 300-pound senior will be back in the fall to anchor a veteran line. The other returning starters are ends Bryan Pata and Thomas Carroll and tackle

Baraka Atkins, who has also played extensively at end. Kareem Brown, a 6-5, 301-pound junior, is a capable reserve at tackle. Carroll and Atkins each had 6.5 sacks in 2004.

If he can stay healthy, senior Leon Williams should be an All-America candidate at middle linebacker. On either side of him will be such talents as senior Rocky McIntosh (15 career starts), junior Tavares Gooden, sophomore Romeo Davis and redshirt freshman Willie Williams, who was widely considered the nation's No. 1 high school linebacker in 2004 but was derailed because of off-field troubles. McIntosh and Gooden ranked second and third among Hurricanes in tackles last year with 111 and 83, respectively.

How talented is Miami's secondary? So talented that junior Devin Hester, one of college football's most gifted athletes, is facing competition in his bid to start at cornerback alongside senior Kelly Jennings, who has made 28 career starts. Also in the mix is senior Marcus Maxey. Hester, who intercepted four passes last season, remains a work-in-progress.

Hester "needs to work on leverage, and he can't freelance," secondary coach Tim Walton says. "It does seem at times like plays go over his head, but he's coming along great with it. He understands it's a process."

Back at safety are senior Greg Threat, junior Brandon Meriweather and sophomore Anthony Reddick. Each started at least six games last season. Threat averaged 9.2 tackles, third most in the ACC. Also looking to make a name in the secondary is true freshman Kenny Phillips, *USA Today's* prep Defensive Player of the Year in 2004. The 6-2, 195-pound safety has "the body of Sean Taylor and the knowledge and speed of Ed Reed," Walton says.

Miami's defense, then, should be dominant. It's too early to say how good its offense might be. The Hurricanes led the ACC in scoring last season, averaging 32.1 points, but they lost four offensive players who made the All-ACC second team: quarterback Brock Berlin, tailback Frank Gore, wideout Roscoe Parrish and tackle Chris Myers. Gore and Parrish left with eligibility remaining, the latest in a long line of Miami stars to do so.

The Hurricanes open the season Sept. 5 at Florida State in what may well be a preview of the first ACC title game. The opener should mark 6-5 sophomore Kyle Wright's debut as Miami's starting quarterback. Wright, who threw nine passes



## ACC COASTAL





MARQUES HAGANS, QB

# VIRGINIA

## CAVALIERS



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 5-3 ACC (lost to Fresno State in the MPC Computers Bowl, 37-34)

Stadium: Scott Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 61,500

Official athletic Web site: www.virginiacsports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Al Groh, 5th Year (30-21) Career Record: 56-61

Assistant coaches: Danny Rocco (assoc. head coach/OLBs), Al Golden (def. coord./def. backs), Ron Prince (off. coord./off. line), Levern Belin (def. line), Mark D'Onofrio (ILBs/special teams), John Garrett (WRs), Mike Groh (QB/recruiting coord.), Anthony Poindexter (RBs), Bob Price (TEs)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Western Michigan	
S. 17	@SYRACUSE	31-10
S. 24	Duke	37-16
O. 1	@MARYLAND	16-0
O. 8	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
O. 15	Florida State	3-36
O. 22	@NORTH CAROLINA	56-24
N. 5	Temple	44-14
N. 12	Georgia Tech	30-10
N. 19	Virginia Tech	10-24
N. 26	@MIAMI (FL)	21-31

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14

Lettermen returning/lost: 34/23

#### OFFENSE

QB	18 Marques Hagans (5-10, 211, Sr.)
FB	38 Jason Snelling (5-11, 245, Jr.)
TB	33 Wali Lundy (5-10, 214, Sr.)
LT	66 D'Brickshaw Ferguson (6-5, 295, Sr.)
LG	62 Brian Barthelme (6-6, 288, Sr.)
C	77 Ian-Yates Cunningham (6-3, 296, So.)
RG	78 Marshal Ausberry (6-5, 324, So.)
RT	69 Brad Butler (6-8, 296, Sr.)
TE	86 Tom Santi (6-5, 225, So.)
WR	81 Deyon Williams (6-3, 188, Jr.)
WR	83 Ottawa Anderson (6-0, 186, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	96 Brennan Schmidt (6-3, 269, Sr.)
NT	92 Keenan Carter (6-1, 324, So.)
DE	99 Chris Johnson (6-3, 275, So.)
LB	51 Clint Sintim (6-3, 250, r-Fr.)
LB	57 Jermaine Dias (6-1, 231, So.)
LB	34 Ahmad Brooks (6-4, 249, Jr.)
LB	44 Kai Parham (6-3, 247, Jr.)
CB	23 Tony Franklin (5-10, 185, Jr.)
CB	3 Marcus Hamilton (5-11, 191, Jr.)
FS	42 Lance Evans (6-4, 198, Jr.)
SS	30 Nate Lyles (6-0, 195, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	6 Connor Hughes (5-10, 172, Sr.)
P	9 Chris Gould (6-1, 190, So.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Eugene Monroe, OL  
Will make a strong push to start at OG this year.
- Mike Brown, CB  
Four-year starter at St. Peter's Prep in New Jersey.
- Mikell Simpson, TB  
Gifted runner who's also dangerous as a receiver.
- Kevin Ogletree, WR  
Had 19 touchdown catches as a senior last year.
- Rashawn Jackson, RB/LB  
Another N.J. product of powerful St. Peter's Prep.

## With the best of its offense now in the NFL, Cavs will have hard time repeating recent success

**B**y the time the NFL Draft ended in April, seven players from Virginia had been selected, a school record. If the Cavaliers (8-4, 5-3 ACC) couldn't win the ACC title with all those players, it seems reasonable to ask how can they hope to do so without them.

Among others, Virginia lost three players who made the All-ACC first team—tailback Alvin Pearman, tight end Heath Miller and offensive guard Elton Brown. Also gone are All-ACC second-team selections Zac Yarbrough (center), Darryl Blackstock (linebacker) and defensive end Chris Canty, who made the all-conference second team in 2002 and 2003. Brown and Miller were All-Americans in 2004, and Canty might have earned similar accolades had he not suffered a season-ending knee injury in September.

"There are good players and good leaders who leave," fifth-year coach Al Groh says, "but there's always another group that's ready to come up and replace them, and I think that we have a number of those guys in those circumstances."

Seven starters are back on offense, and that doesn't include wideout Ottawa Anderson. A starter in 2003, Anderson was academically ineligible last season, but he's expected back this fall. On defense, coordinator Al Golden returns six starters, led by All-America linebacker Ahmad Brooks.

Also back are kicker Connor Hughes, a Lou Groza Award candidate, and punter Chris Gould, who won the starting job as a true freshman last year.

Virginia's roster, obviously, was well-stocked with all-star candidates in 2004. The Cavaliers placed five players on the All-ACC first team. None of them, however, lined up at wide receiver or defensive back, and those positions proved to be the Cavaliers' weak points, especially late in the season. They dropped three of the final four games, including an overtime loss to Fresno State in the MPC Computers Bowl. That marked the first time under Groh (30-21 at his alma mater) that UVA. lost its final game of a season.

The Cavaliers' quarterback in 2002 and '03 was Matt Schaub, and he ran Groh's version of the West Coast offense brilliantly. Marques Hagans, who spent more time at wideout and punt returner than QB as a freshman and sophomore, took over for Schaub last year. The 5-10 Hagans, a superior scrambler, completed 62.8 percent of his

attempts and threw nine touchdown passes last season. But he looked flustered at times too.

"I think I feel a lot more confident [this year]," says Hagans, who ranked second in the ACC in passing efficiency. "It was definitely a lot more challenging than I thought it would be."

A season ago, UVA. led the ACC in total offense, in large part because of its dominant rushing attack. The Cavaliers averaged 242.8 yards on the ground, by far the most of any team in the ACC. The return of senior tailback Wali Lundy and junior fullback Jason Snelling, plus a line that includes tackles D'Brickshaw Ferguson and Brad Butler and guard Brian Barthelme—all three are seniors—means Virginia will again run the ball with authority.

The Cavaliers are likely to struggle against the ACC's elite, however, unless they develop a reliable passing attack.

Hagans' targets include juniors Fontel Mines, Deyon Williams and Ron Morton, sophomore Bud Davis and Anderson, who's a senior. All have shown flashes of talent, but none has consistently looked like an all-star candidate.

Statistically, Virginia's defense fared well in 2004. The Cavaliers ranked fourth among ACC teams in scoring defense. But breakdowns in pass coverage hurt UVA. against the better teams on its schedule. To shore up his secondary, Groh shuffled the assignments of several assistants after last season.

In addition to serving as coordinator, Golden now tutors the defensive backs. He has veteran corners in junior returning starters Marcus Hamilton and Tony Franklin and promising, if unseasoned, safeties in Nate Lyles, Lance Evans and Jamaal Jackson. Philip Brown, inconsistent as a true freshman last year, may contend for a starting spot at cornerback. Hamilton intercepted four passes last season.

The big losses in Virginia's 3-4 defense were Andrew Hoffman, a three-year starter at nose tackle, and outside linebackers Blackstock (27 career sacks) and Dennis Haley. The probable starters on either side of inside 'backers Brooks and Kai Parham are sophomore Jermaine Dias and redshirt freshman Clint Sintim.

Brooks, who's recovering from offseason knee surgery, may be the nation's premier linebacker.



# GEORGIA TECH

## YELLOW JACKETS



ATLANTA

**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 4-4 ACC (beat Syracuse in the Champs Sports Bowl, 51-14)

**Stadium:** Bobby Dodd Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 55,000

**Official athletic Web site:** www.ramblinwreck.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:



4

**Head coach:** Chan Gailey, 4th Year (21-17) **Career Record:** 45-28

**Assistant coaches:** Joe D'Alessandris (off. line), Buddy Geis (asst. head coach/WRs), Brian Jean-Mary (LBs), Curtis Modkins (RBs), Patrick Nix (off. coord./QBs), Tommie Robinson (TEs), Giff Smith (def. line), Jon Tenuta (def. coord./def. backs), David Wilson (special teams/recruiting coord.)



REGGIE BALL, QB

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@AUBURN	
S. 10	North Carolina	13-34
S. 17	Connecticut	30-10
S. 24	@VIRGINIA TECH	20-34
O. 6	North Carolina State	24-14
O. 15	@DUKE	24-7
O. 22	@MIAMI (FL)	3-27
O. 29	Clemson	28-24
N. 5	Wake Forest	
N. 12	@VIRGINIA	10-30
N. 26	Georgia	13-19

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16

Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	1	Reggie Ball (5-11, 195, Jr.)
FB	40	Mike Cox (6-1, 248, So.)
TB	45	P.J. Daniels (5-10, 210, r-Sr.)
LG	64	Andrew Gardner (6-6, 280, r-Fr.)
LT	61	Matt Rhodes (6-3, 280, r-So.)
C	73	Nate McManus (6-3, 290, So.)
RG	68	Mansfield Wrotto (6-3, 310, Jr.)
RT	72	Brad Honeycutt (6-4, 310, r-Sr.)
TE	48	Michael Matthews (6-4, 270, r-Jr.)
WR	21	Calvin Johnson (6-4, 225, So.)
WR	8	Damarius Bilbo (6-3, 225, r-Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	56	Eric Henderson (6-3, 265, r-Sr.)
DT	96	Joe Anoai (6-3, 270, Jr.)
DT	55	David Brown (6-3, 260, r-Fr.)
DE	42	Adamm Oliver (6-4, 260, r-So.)
SLB	35	KaMichael Hall (6-0, 225, Jr.)
MLB	49	Gerris Wilkinson (6-4, 230, r-Sr.)
WLB	41	Philip Wheeler (6-2, 221, r-So.)
CB	9	Reuben Houston (6-0, 190, r-Sr.)
CB	25	Dennis Davis (6-0, 185, r-Sr.)
FS	20	Dawan Landry (6-2, 215, r-Sr.)
SS	18	Chris Reis (6-1, 215, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	87	Travis Bell (6-0, 210, r-So.)
P	86	Ben Arndt (6-0, 180, r-Sr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Michael Johnson, TE/DE**  
Six-foot-7 athlete had 42 catches, 14 sacks in '04.
- Jonathan Garner, QB**  
Lefty was ranked among nation's top 20 QBs.
- Anthony Barnes, DB**  
At 6-4, 200 pounds, a physical presence at safety.
- Jake Blackwood, S**  
Father (Glenn) and uncle (Lyle) played in the NFL.
- Tony Clark, CB**  
Speedster intercepted four passes as senior in '04.

ACC COASTAL

## If their quarterback can find consistency, Yellow Jackets could be having a Ball

The 2004 season couldn't have ended on a much more impressive note for the Yellow Jackets, who crushed Syracuse 51-14 in the Champs Sports Bowl. Georgia Tech had been mediocre during the regular season—4-4 in the ACC and 6-5 overall—but on that December night it was spectacular.

If the Jackets played like that all the time, of course, there wouldn't be so much grumbling about fourth-year coach Chan Gailey (21-17). But they've never won more than seven games in a season under Gailey. And although they figure to extend their school-record streak of postseason appearances to nine, a major breakthrough isn't likely to come this year. Check out Tech's schedule, which includes road games against Auburn, Virginia Tech, Miami and Virginia, as well as the regular-season finale against Georgia.

Five Jackets earned All-ACC recognition in 2004. Four of are back: wideout Calvin Johnson, a first-team pick, and second-team selections Travis Bell (kicker), Eric Henderson (defensive end) and Gerris Wilkinson (linebacker). Henderson was a first-team choice in 2003.

In Jon Tenuta, Georgia Tech has one of the nation's better defensive coordinators, and he has a stellar returning cast. The Jackets ranked fifth among ACC teams in scoring defense (18.9 ppg) in 2004, and they should be better this season. Of last year's starting defenders, only All-ACC safety James Butler and defensive end Travis Parker, an academic casualty, are gone. Mansfield Wrotto, a regular at tackle in 2004, has been moved to offensive guard in an attempt to strengthen that line. Unfortunately for Tenuta, Wrotto's replacement at tackle, Daryl Richard, tore his right ACL during spring practice and will miss the season.

Henderson and Parker form perhaps the ACC's best set of ends, and the 6-4, 230-pound Wilkinson ranked second among tacklers in the conference with 9.9 per game. One of his running mates at linebacker last year, Chris Reis, recorded 10 sacks, the most of any returning ACC player. Reis is now at safety, his original position with the Yellow Jackets. There's tremendous experience in the secondary, where strong safety Dawan Landry has started 25 games and

cornerbacks Dennis Davis, Reuben Houston and Kenny Scott have all worked with the first team. Davis started the first three games last year before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury.

Special teams should be another strength. Not only is Bell (15-of-17 on field goals) back, but so is punter Ben Arndt, who had 20 punts downed inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

On offense, the most decorated of the five returning starters is Johnson. Blessed with size (6-4, 225), speed and exceptional hands, he caught 48 passes for 837 yards and seven touchdowns as a true freshman to earn ACC Rookie-of-the-Year honors. For all of Johnson's considerable talent, however, he can't carry the Jackets alone.

Gailey desperately needs more consistency from his mercurial quarterback, junior Reggie Ball. The ACC Rookie of the Year in 2003, Ball threw more interceptions (18) than touchdown passes (16) in '04, and his decision-making was atrocious at times. Still, when he's on his game, Ball is capable of producing big plays. In two seasons, he's passed for 4,143 yards. In ACC history, only three quarterbacks have thrown for more by the end of their sophomore seasons.

Gailey's biggest concern is rebuilding an offensive line that lost three starters. Also gone is tight end Darius Williams, whose likely replacement, junior Michael Matthews, caught one pass last season. Tech's returning starters up front are sophomore guard Matt Rhodes and senior tackle Brad Honeycutt, a converted guard. Andrew Gardner, a 6-6, 280-pound redshirt freshman, is the leading candidate to take over at left tackle. Wrotto, a 6-3, 310-pound junior, will work at right guard.

If the line develops, the Jackets could have a powerful running attack. Returning is senior tailback P.J. Daniels, the school's fifth all-time leading rusher with 2,416 yards. Daniels, hobbled by injuries last year, was first-team All-ACC in 2003. In Daniels' absence last season, Chris Woods and Rashaun Grant impressed at times, and both are back. Tech's top fullbacks are Mike Cox and Ajenavi Eziemefe, who has also played tailback.

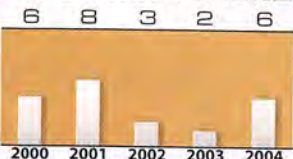


**NORTH CAROLINA****TAR HEELS**

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 5-3 ACC

(lost to Boston College in the Continental Tire Bowl, 37-24)

Official athletic Web site: www.tarheelblue.com

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	@GEORGIA TECH	34-13
S. 17	Wisconsin	
S. 24	@NC STATE	30-24
O. 1	Utah	16-46
O. 8	@LOUISVILLE	0-34
O. 22	Virginia	24-56
O. 29	@MIAMI (FL)	31-28
N. 5	Boston College	
N. 12	Maryland	
N. 19	Duke	40-17
N. 26	@VIRGINIA TECH	24-27

Head coach: John Bunting,  
5th Year (19-30)

Career Record: 57-44-2

Stadium: Kenan Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 60,000

**PROJECTED STARTERS**Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 53/23**OFFENSE**

QB	7	Matt Baker (6-2, 209, Sr.)
FB	40	Rikki Cook (6-0, 260, Jr.)
TB	25	Ronnie McGill (5-11, 210, Jr.)
LT	66	Brian Chacos (6-4, 297, Sr.)
LG	77	Charlston Gray (6-3, 299, So.)
C	63	Ben Lemming (6-5, 280, So.)
RG	78	Kyle Ralph (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	75	Skip Seagraves (6-5, 290, Sr.)
TE	86	Jon Hamlett (6-5, 247, Jr.)
WR	1	Derrele Mitchell (6-3, 212, Sr.)
WR	5	Jarwarski Pollock (5-8, 170, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	42	Brian Rackley (6-5, 245, Jr.)
DT	95	Chase Page (6-5, 280, Sr.)
DT	74	Kyndraus Guy (6-2, 269, So.)
DE	80	Tommy Davis (6-2, 257, Sr.)
SLB	52	Jeff Longhany (6-3, 251, Sr.)
MLB	53	Doug Justice (6-2, 246, Sr.)
WLB	8	Tommy Richardson (6-1, 223, Sr.)
DB	16	Jacoby Watkins (6-0, 170, Jr.)
DB	13	Cedrick Holt (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	27	Kareen Taylor (6-0, 195, Jr.)
SS	31	Trimane Goddard (5-11, 185, So.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	10	Connor Barth (6-1, 175, So.)
P	45	David Woolridge (6-1, 194, Jr.)

This time last year, John Bunting's chances of returning as the Tar Heels' coach in 2005 seemed poor at best. His prospects still looked bleak the first week of October, in fact, after a one-sided loss to Florida State dropped North Carolina to 2-3. But a controversial victory over archrival N.C. State turned the Heels' season around. Carolina (6-6, 5-3) won four of its final six regular-season games—a stretch highlighted by a shocking upset of No. 4 Miami—to save Bunting's job.

Bunting was rewarded with a two-year contract extension soon after Carolina beat Duke in the regular-season finale. About two weeks later, however, the Tar Heels fell 37-24 to Boston College in the Continental Tire Bowl, and they figure to struggle this season unless their much-maligned defense improves significantly. No longer is record-setting quarterback Darian Durant around to give Carolina a decent shot at winning shootouts.

A season ago, UNC ranked last among ACC teams in total defense and scoring defense (31.8 ppg). With 10 starters back on defense, there's reason to believe the Tar Heels won't be so generous this year. The returnees include tackle Chase Page, a 6-5, 280-pound senior who started 12 games in 2003 but redshirted last season after tearing a tendon in his left hand.

Other players to watch include 6-6, 297-pound sophomore tackle Khalif Mitchell (an end last season), sophomore tackle Kyndraus Guy, junior safety Kareen Taylor, senior linebacker Doug Justice and junior linebacker Larry Edwards, who had a terrific spring practice.

With sophomore kicker Connor Barth and junior punter David Woolridge back, North Carolina's kicking game should be solid.

More questions surround an offense that returns only five starters. Taking over at quarterback is senior Matt Baker, who's completed just 44 passes for 623 yards in his career. The featured tailback will be Ronnie McGill, who battled a nagging ankle injury last season. The returning starters are wide receivers Derrele Mitchell and Jarwarski Pollock, tackle Brian Chacos and guards Kyle Ralph and Charlston Gray.

**DUKE****BLUE DEVILS**

2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 ACC

Official athletic Web site: www.goduke.com

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@EAST CAROLINA	
S. 10	Virginia Tech	17-41
S. 17	Virginia Military	
S. 24	@VIRGINIA	16-37
O. 1	Navy	12-27
O. 8	@MIAMI (FL)	
O. 15	Georgia Tech	7-24
O. 22	Florida State	7-29
O. 29	Wake Forest	22-24
N. 5	@CLEMSON	16-13
N. 19	@NORTH CAROLINA	17-40

Head coach: Ted Roof,  
3rd Year (4-12)

Career Record: 4-12

Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 33,941

**PROJECTED STARTERS**Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/11**OFFENSE**

QB	7	Mike Schneider (6-2, 215, Jr.)
FB	22	Malcolm Ruff (6-0, 250, Sr.)
TB	33	Cedric Dargan (6-0, 200, Sr.)
LT	90	Demetrius Warrick (6-7, 300, Sr.)
LG	67	Bob Berion (6-3, 285, Jr.)
C	68	Matt Rumsey (6-4, 275, So.)
RG	66	Tyler Krieg (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	75	Izzy Bauta (6-4, 270, So.)
TE	83	Ben Patrick (6-4, 260, Jr.)
WR	81	Jomar Wright (6-1, 180, So.)
WR	28	Ronnie Elliott (5-10, 185, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	41	Justin Kitchen (6-4, 235, Sr.)
DT	77	Vince Oghobaase (6-6, 335, Fr.)
DT	51	Casey Camero (6-5, 265, Jr.)
DE	52	Eli Nichols (6-4, 250, Jr.)
LB	30	Brendan Dewan (6-1, 205, Sr.)
LB	58	Codey Love (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB	84	Patrick Bailey (6-4, 240, So.)
CB	10	Deonto McCormick (5-10, 180, Jr.)
CB	11	John Talley (5-11, 180, Jr.)
FS	23	Brian Greene (6-1, 190, Sr.)
SS	27	Chris Davis (6-0, 175, So.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	14	Alex Feinberg (6-0, 200, r.-So.)
P	49	Chris Sprague (6-1, 180, Sr.)

The Blue Devils (2-9, 1-7) played hard in their first full season under coach Ted Roof but, other than a late-season upset of Clemson, had little to show for their effort.

Don't look for a significantly improved record in 2005. Duke's non-conference schedule is forgiving, but Roof's team isn't likely to get close to the top half of the ACC's Coastal Division.

On offense, six starters return, including junior quarterback Mike Schneider and the team's top three pass receivers from 2004: tight ends Ben Patrick and Andy Roland and wideout Ronnie Elliott. Also back is Curt Dukes, whose primary position is QB but who also played fullback, tight end and receiver last season. Duke will find ways to get Dukes the ball, but the quarterback's job almost certainly will belong to Schneider, who completed nearly 60 percent of his passes for 1,527 yards last year.

Overseeing the attack is a new coordinator, Bill O'Brien, who came to Duke from Maryland. Cedric Dargan is back at tailback, and Malcolm Ruff, a starting linebacker in 2004, has been moved to fullback, where he played in 2002. Still, the Devils will have trouble running or passing if their inexperienced line doesn't develop quickly. Junior guard Tyler Krieg is the only starter back up front.

"I think that is the biggest area of concern for our football team," Roof says.

To bolster the line, 6-7, 300-pound Demetrius Warrick has been moved from the defensive line, his home for three seasons, to offensive tackle.

Only one Blue Devil earned All-ACC honors in 2004: cornerback John Talley, a second-team selection. Talley, who intercepted four passes, is one of six returning starters on Duke's defense. If end Phillip Alexander and tackle Brian Sallee are healthy, the line could be a strength. Alexander, who had 6.5 sacks in 2003, missed the final nine games last season with a leg injury. Sallee suffered a season-ending leg injury in the 2004 opener against Navy.

Adding depth and talent up front is 6-6, 335-pound true freshman Vince Oghobaase, the highest-rated recruit to enter Duke's program in years. The team's top returning tackler is senior linebacker Brendan Dewan.



## BIG EAST CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:



### Games to watch:

- >> **Louisville** at **West Virginia**, Oct. 15  
Cards get their first major Big East road test in Morgantown.
- >> **Pittsburgh** at **Louisville**, Nov. 3  
Thursday night ESPN game that could decide regular-season title.
- >> **Pittsburgh** at **West Virginia**, Nov. 24  
If Pitt-Louisville doesn't decide things Nov. 3, this one will.

official conference Web site:  
[www.bigeast.org](http://www.bigeast.org)

## Right now, Big East football not exactly living large

By Pete Williams  
Street & Smith's Correspondent

It might take a while for the new-look Big East to establish an identity. There are four new teams and two incumbents have new head coaches.

Big East? With just eight schools in the new super-conference era and a BCS berth some argue it does not deserve, there's nothing "big" about the conference. With Cincinnati and Louisville joining the fold, along with Connecticut and South Florida, the conference is far less Eastern than it was two years ago with Boston College, Miami, Temple and Virginia Tech.

None of the newcomers figures to make anyone forget about Miami and Virginia Tech, which took their perennial title battle to the ACC. Still, the Big East arguably could be tougher from top to bottom, now that the hapless Owls have been booted for failing to field a competitive program.

Louisville has emerged as the surprise upstart of the new millennium. Connecticut has thrived in recent years, at least with now-graduated quarterback Dan Orlovsky leading the way. And South Florida has quietly emerged as a legit title threat. Not bad for a program that did not exist until 1997.

The Cardinals, who could have finished undefeated were it not for a late-game rally by Miami at midseason, may be this season's Virginia Tech, winning a championship in a more prestigious league. To do so, coach Bobby Petrino's troops will have to vanquish far superior competition than their old Conference USA opponents.

Dave Wannstedt might be a recruiting class or two away from having a better team at Pittsburgh

than he did during his last season at the helm of the Miami Dolphins. If he can blend his running-and-defense philosophies with a talented passing corps, the Panthers could again be at the top of the heap this season.

West Virginia has become Running Back U. under Rich Rodriguez, a reputation that will continue even after the departure of All-Big East second-team choice Kay-Jay Harris. The Mountaineers were considered underachievers for winning just eight games in each of the last two seasons, but that would be a solid accomplishment in a semi-rebuilding year.

Connecticut has a new stadium in its second full year in the Big East. Coach Randy Edsall will be hard-pressed to extend the school's remarkable run now that Orlovsky has departed to the NFL. The Huskies likely will reinvent themselves as more of a running team and should remain a formidable opponent.

After 30 years as a college and NFL assistant, Greg Robinson gets his first shot at head coaching in Syracuse. A lackluster 6-6 season, including a loss to Temple, cost Paul Pasqualoni his job. Robinson's West Coast offense will be stark contrast to the 14-year Pasqualoni era.

Because of the seismic shifts in conference realignment, South Florida has soared through the I-A ranks and can compete for a BCS bid in just its ninth season of fielding a team. Bulls officials and coach Jim Leavitt have waited for the day they could compete at the highest level. This season will show whether or not USF has grown too fast.

Cincinnati thrived last season, but must undergo a huge rebuilding process that could be painful against tougher competition.

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

### Offense

QB	Tyler Palko, Sr., Pittsburgh
RB	Cornell Brockington, Jr., UConn
RB	Andre Hall, Sr., South Florida
OL	Dan Mozes, Jr., West Virginia
OL	Travis Leffew, Sr., Louisville
OL	Jason Spitz, Sr., Louisville
OL	Jeremy Sheffey, Jr., West Virginia
OL	John Glass, Sr., Rutgers
WR	Tres Moses, Sr., Rutgers
WR	Greg Lee, Jr., Pittsburgh
TE	Clark Harris, Sr., Rutgers
PK	Josh Cummings, Sr., Pittsburgh

### Defense

OL	James Wyche, Sr., Syracuse
OL	Adam Roberts, Sr., Cincinnati
OL	Elvis Dumervil, Sr., Louisville
OL	Ryan Neill, Sr., Rutgers
LB	H.B. Blades, Jr., Pittsburgh
LB	Stephen Nicholas, Jr., S.Florida
LB	Brandon Johnson, Sr., Louisville
DB	Jahmile Addae, Sr., West Virginia
DB	Bernard "Josh" Lay, Sr., Pittsburgh
DB	Anthony Smith, Sr., Syracuse
DB	Mike Lorello, Sr., West Virginia
P	Adam Graessle, Jr., Pittsburgh

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Brandon Young, Connecticut
Best hands	Tres Moses, WR, Rutgers
Best passing QB	Ryan Hart, Rutgers
Best running QB	Joe Fields, Syracuse
Most elusive RB	Andre Hall, South Florida
Best instincts	Dan Mozes, OL, West Virginia
Best athlete	Joshua Tinch, WR, Louisville
Best under pressure	Tyler Palko, OL, Pittsburgh
Top NFL prospect	H.B. Blades, LB, Pittsburgh
Top impact freshman	Jason Gwaltney, RB, West Virginia
Hardest hitter	H.B. Blades, LB, Pittsburgh
Biggest underachiever[s]	Joe Fields/Perry Patterson, Syracuse QBs

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Rich Rodriguez, West Virginia
Best recruiter	Jim Leavitt, South Florida
Coach on the spot	Greg Schiano, Rutgers

### Don't be surprised if ...

The Big East sends another eight-win team to the BCS. With so much parity—or at least no team that stands above the rest—there might be no team to break out the way Louisville did in Conference USA last season.

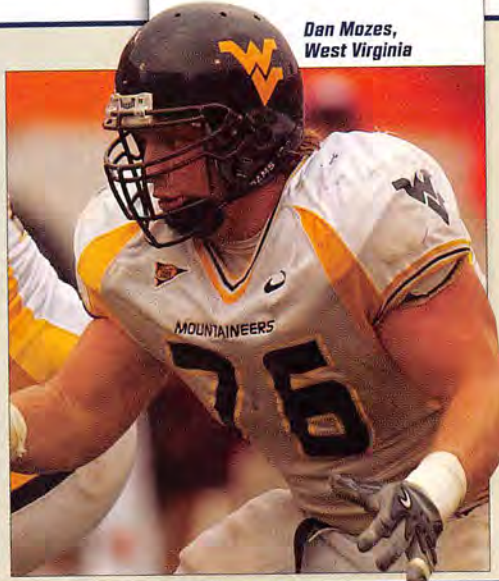
### One man's opinion

"If Pitt can establish a running game, they'll be the team to beat. Most of the conference seems to have question marks with the passing game, but that won't be a problem with the guys Dave Wannstedt inherits. Plus, you know he'll find a way to run the ball. He'll make a good defense better."

—a Big East assistant coach

### Rating the recruits

- 1. West Virginia**  
Running back Jason Gwaltney headlines a talented class.
- 2. Pittsburgh**  
Dave Wannstedt tapped into western Pennsylvania, while also landing top RB Convedge Collins out of south Florida.
- 3. South Florida**  
Landed six of Sunshine State's top 50 recruits, including quarterbacks Carlton Hill and Matt Grothe.
- 4. Louisville**  
Cardinals' recruits came from all over, including three jocos. The best is New Jersey lineman Brian Roche.
- 5. Cincinnati**  
Stayed home and landed top local products: OL Terrill Byrd and QB Dominick Goodman.
- 6. Connecticut**  
South Florida quarterback Dennis Brown tops the list.
- 7. Syracuse**  
Talented wideouts Lavar Lobdell and Bruce Williams lead Greg Robinson's first class.
- 8. Rutgers**  
It was a great year for N.J. talent, but most of it went elsewhere. Offensive lineman Dave McClain (Jamison, Pa.) is the best of the bunch.



Dan Mozes, West Virginia





BRIAN BROHM, QB



# LOUISVILLE CARDINALS



LOUISVILLE

2004 Record: 11-1 overall, 8-0 Conference USA (beat Boise State in the Liberty Bowl, 44-40)  
Stadium: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium Turf: Artificial Capacity: 42,000  
Official athletic Web site: www.uoflsports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Bobby Petrino, 3rd Year (20-5) Career Record: 20-5  
Assistant coaches: Greg Nord (asst. head coach/TES/RBs), Mike Cassity (def. coord./safeties), Paul Petrino (off. coord./WRs), Jeff Brohm (QB), Reggie Johnson (LBs), Tony Levine (OLBs/special teams), Mike Summers (off. line), Joe Whitt Jr. (CBs/recruiting coord.), Kevin Wolthausen (def. line)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@KENTUCKY	28-0
S. 17	Oregon State	
S. 24	@SOUTH FLORIDA	41-9
O. 1	Florida Atlantic	
O. 8	North Carolina	34-0
O. 15	@WEST VIRGINIA	
O. 22	@CINCINNATI	70-7
N. 3	Pittsburgh	
N. 11	Rutgers	
N. 26	Syracuse	
D. 3	@CONNECTICUT	

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/18

### OFFENSE

QB	12	Brian Brohm (6-4, 224, So.)
RB	19	Michael Bush (6-3, 250, Jr.)
WT	78	Travis Leffew (6-4, 301, Sr.)
WG	71	Marcus Gordon (6-6, 320, Jr.)
C	59	Jason Spitz (6-4, 308, Sr.)
SG	76	Kurt Quarterman (6-5, 348, Jr.)
ST	74	Jeremy Darveau (6-7, 321, Sr.)
TE	82	Gary Barnidge (6-6, 230, So.)
WR	9	Joshua Tinch (6-3, 223, Sr.)
WR	86	Montrell Jones (6-0, 199, Sr.)
WR	4	Broderick Clark (6-0, 185, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	58	Elvis Dumervil (6-0, 256, Sr.)
DT	92	Montavious Stanley (6-2, 321, Sr.)
DT	91	Amobi Okoye (6-1, 317, Jr.)
DE	88	Brandon Cox (6-4, 255, So.)
SLB	43	Abe Brown (6-4, 230, Jr.)
MLB	55	Matt Sanders (6-2, 242, So.)
WLB	97	Brandon Johnson (6-5, 218, Sr.)
LCB	14	Rod Council (5-11, 185, r-Fr.)
RCB	21	William Gay (5-11, 182, Jr.)
FS	35	Brandon Sharp (5-11, 190, Jr.)
SS	5	Antoine Sharp (6-1, 196, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	18	Arthur Carmody (5-8, 181, So.)
P	36	Todd Flannery (6-0, 170, So.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Nate Harris, LB  
One of several juco signees expected to contribute.
- Steven Black, WR  
Big prep target (6-3, 205) from Birmingham, Ala.
- Brian Roche, OL  
Standout pass blocker from Don Bosco Prep in N.J.
- Zach Anderson, DE  
Juco pass rusher from East Mississippi CC.
- Marcel Benson, OL  
California juco product expected to fill needs now.

## Despite massive talent gone to the NFL, Cards' first deck in Big East to be a good one

**S**ure, they went 11-1, finished the season ranked sixth or seventh in the polls and dominated on both sides of the ball. In fact, were it not for a late rally by Miami in midseason, the Louisville Cardinals could have made a compelling argument to play in a national title game.

Now the Cards will face more formidable opponents in the Big East than they did in Conference USA; seven 2005 opponents played in bowl games last season. Gone are standout quarterback Stefan LeFors, running back Eric Shelton, wideout J.R. Russell, defensive end Marcus Jones, linebacker Robert McCune and safety Kerry Rhodes. All except Jones were NFL draft picks.

A preseason top-10 ranking would seem ambitious, but the Cardinals have to be considered the favorite in the revamped Big East, what with West Virginia and Connecticut rebuilding and Syracuse and Pittsburgh revamping under new regimes.

Third-year coach Bobby Petrino has established a national name for himself, one no longer confused with Louisville's Final Four basketball coach. Petrino's high-powered offense, which led the nation in scoring in '04, is a thing of beauty.

The Cardinals lost top players at each of the skill positions, but should have no problem reloading. Sophomore Brian Brohm, the USA Today High School Player of the Year in 2003, takes over for LeFors.

Brohm would be hard-pressed to come up with a better group of wide receivers and offensive linemen. The offensive line returns virtually intact, with senior Jason Spitz moving from tackle to center. Senior guard Travis Leffew, a third-team All-America pick last season, will add to his school-record streak of 38 straight starts.

Russell and his 148 catches over the last two seasons leave a void, but the Cardinals return a fast, experienced trio of receivers, all seniors. Montrell Jones (37 catches, 564 yards) has blossomed since transferring from Tennessee in 2002. Joshua Tinch enjoyed a breakout season in '04, with 36 catches for 510 yards. Broderick Clark (27 passes, 441 yards) has recovered from a late-season ankle injury.

The Cardinals had a deep rushing attack in '04 and should again in '05, even with Shelton's early departure to the NFL. At 250 pounds, junior Michael Bush is a physical runner who rushed for 734 yards and seven touchdowns last season. He figures to be the featured back, though junior Kolby Smith (347 yards, 9.4 average) will get significant carries.

The defense thrived last year under new coordinator Mike Cassity, improving from 93rd to 15th in total defense (305.9 yards) and allowing just 19.7 points per game, good for 24th in the nation. Cassity must replace six starters, including both safeties.

Senior defensive end Elvis Dumervil (10 sacks) is a relentless pass rusher. Built low to the ground at 6-0, he recorded a career-best 52 tackles. Senior Montavious Stanley is a massive presence at tackle and junior Amobi Okoye, who turns 18 in June, is a promising talent who projects as a full-time starter this year.

Junior Abe Brown and sophomore Matt Sanders are the leading candidates to take over McCune's post at middle linebacker. Last year's emergence of weakside 'backer Brandon Johnson, now a senior, was one of the keys to the Cardinals' defense. Tall and speedy with good range, he was second on the team with 84 tackles.



TRAVIS LEFFEW, OG



# PITTSBURGH

## PANTHERS

# PITT

PITTSBURGH

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 4-2 Big East (lost to Utah in the Fiesta Bowl, 35-7)

Stadium: Heinz Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,000

Official athletic Web site: [www.pittsburghpanthers.com](http://www.pittsburghpanthers.com)

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

6 7 9 8 8  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

2

Head coach: Dave Wannstedt, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0

Assistant coaches: Bob Junko (asst. head coach/def. tackles), Matt Cavanaugh (off. coord./QB's), Paul Rhoads (def. coord./secondary), Curtis Bray (LB's), Paul Dunn (off. line), Greg Gattuso (TE's/recruiting coord.), Aubrey Hill (WR's), Charlie Partridge (def. ends/special teams), David Walker (RB's)

## Will Wannstedt's run-first philosophy mesh with returning offense geared to Palko's passing?

Unlike most new coaches, Dave Wannstedt does not have much of a rebuilding task ahead of him. Sure, he has to mend fences on the Pennsylvania recruiting trail, where predecessor Walt Harris seemed to struggle. But the Pitt alum, who has the same firm jaw and rugged Steeltown looks of the pro coach he'll share Heinz Stadium with (see: Bill Cowher), brings instant credibility both on and off the field.

The Panthers were one of the bigger surprises of 2004, winning the Big East and earning a BCS bid. If they are to repeat in '05, Wannstedt must find a way to merge the run-first strategy he employed in the NFL to a roster more geared toward the passing game.

The hiring of Matt Cavanaugh as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach should help jump-start a talented, if sometimes underachieving, offense.

Junior quarterback Tyler Palko shrugged off early-season inconsistency in '04 to become one of the nation's hottest quarterbacks by the end of the season, throwing for 3,067 yards and a Big East-high 24 touchdowns. Palko tossed just three

interceptions in the final 10 games, earning all-conference honors.

Palko has two dependable targets in junior wide receivers Greg Lee (68 catches for 1,297 yards and 10 TDs) and Joe DeSardo (49 catches, 573 yards). The Panthers' two top tight ends from last season, Erik Gill and Steve Buches, also return.

Pittsburgh managed just 97.8 yards per game on the ground, 105th in the nation. Still, the running corps is deep, physical and experienced, which should fit the Wannstedt strategy of wearing down opponents. Senior Tim Murphy contributes at tailback and fullback. Senior Raymond Kirkley started at tailback much of last year before missing the final two games with a wrist injury. The most intriguing back is top recruit Conredge Collins out of Miami.

The only thing keeping the Pitt offense from becoming a powerhouse is the offensive line, which has little mobility and must deal with the loss of last year's best player, tackle Rob Petitti. Charles Spencer made a successful transition from defensive tackle to guard last season, earning All-Big East honors. He could shift to tackle, with center Chris Vangas moving to guard.

Wannstedt has made his mark in college and the pros as a defensive mastermind, and he has some building blocks already in place to manage.

Pittsburgh's biggest challenge will be replacing all-conference defensive tackles Vince Crochunis and Dan Stephens. Thomas Smith, who played the last two seasons at end, could move inside. Right end Azzie Beagnyam, who suffered a season-ending ankle fracture in the second game of last season, is expected back at full strength, and true freshman Craig Bokor could start immediately.

Junior linebacker H.B. Blades returns after leading the Panthers with a team-high 108 tackles, 10.5 for losses. H.B. seems on track to follow his father, ex-pro Bennie Blades, into the NFL. The secondary might be the team's deepest unit, led by all-conference right corner Bernard "Josh" Lay. Across the field, Darrelle Revis was one of the nation's top true freshmen in '04.

The Panthers again should have the best kicking game in the conference, returning place-kicker Josh Cummings and punter Adam Graessle, both first-team all-conference choices.



TYLER PALKO, QB

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Notre Dame	41-38
S. 10	@OHIO	24-3
S. 17	@NEBRASKA	17-24
S. 24	Youngstown State	
S. 30	@RUTGERS	41-17
O. 8	Cincinnati	
O. 15	South Florida	43-14
O. 22	Syracuse	31-38 (OT)
N. 3	@LOUISVILLE	
N. 12	Connecticut	17-29
N. 24	@WEST VIRGINIA	16-13

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	3	Tyler Palko (6-2, 220, r-Jr.)
FB	23	Tim Murphy (5-10, 235, r-Sr.)
TB	43	Raymond Kirkley (5-10, 225, r-Sr.)
LT	56	Charles Spencer (6-5, 330, r-Sr.)
LG	76	Neal Tracey (6-3, 295, r-So.)
C	64	Chris Vangas (6-2, 300, r-So.)
RG	60	John Simonitis (6-4, 315, r-Jr.)
RT	75	Mike McGlynn (6-5, 315, r-So.)
TE	45	Erik Gill (6-5, 270, r-Sr.)
SE	4	Joe DeSardo (5-8, 200, Jr.)
FL	86	Greg Lee (6-2, 200, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	54	Charles Sallet (6-0, 225, r-Jr.)
NT	55	Thomas Smith (6-4, 285, r-Sr.)
DT	91	Phil Tillman (6-1, 315, Sr.)
DE	41	Azzie Beagnyam (6-1, 245, r-Jr.)
SLB	51	H.B. Blades (6-0, 245, Jr.)
MLB	17	Clint Session (5-11, 235, Jr.)
WLB	9	J.J. Horne (6-3, 235, Sr.)
LCB	25	Darrelle Revis (6-0, 180, So.)
RCB	12	Josh Lay (6-2, 195, Jr.)
FS	20	Tez Morris (5-10, 190, r-Sr.)
SS	46	Sam Bryant (6-0, 220, r-Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	22	Josh Cummings (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	18	Adam Graessle (6-4, 220, Jr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Conredge Collins, RB**  
Big back from Florida comes north with big rep.
2. **Craig Bokor, DL**  
Valley Forge (Pa.) Military product fills big need.
3. **Bill Stull, QB**  
Late add from Pittsburgh posted big HS numbers.
4. **LaRod Stephens, WR/R**  
Smallest signee (5-7, 165) is now fastest Panther.
5. **John Pelusi, TE**  
Touted Pittsburgh product from Dan Marino's HS.



TOMASSO DEROSA

H.B. BLADES, LB

BIG EAST





JAHMILE ADDAE, FS



# WEST VIRGINIA

## MOUNTAINEERS

MORGANTOWN, W.VA.

**2004 Record:** 8-4 overall, 4-1 (lost to Florida State in the Gator Bowl, 30-18)  
**Stadium:** Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium **Turf:** Artificial  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.msnsportsnet.com

**Capacity:** 60,000

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Rich Rodriguez, 5th Year (28-21) **Career Record:** 73-57-2

**Assistant coaches:** Rick Trickett (asst. head coach/off. line), Jeff Casteel (def. coord.), Calvin Magee (off. coord./RBs), Tony Gibson (def. backs), Herb Hand (TEs/recruiting coord.), Butch Jones (WRs), Bill Kirelawich (def. line), Bill Stewart (QB/special teams), Bruce Tall (safeties)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@SYRACUSE	27-6
S. 10	Wofford	
S. 17	@MARYLAND	19-16 (OT)
S. 24	East Carolina	56-23
O. 1	Virginia Tech	13-19
O. 8	@RUTGERS	35-30
O. 15	Louisville	
O. 22	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
N. 2	Connecticut	31-19
N. 9	@CINCINNATI	
N. 24	Pittsburgh	13-16

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 41/26

#### OFFENSE

QB	5	Pat White (6-1, 185, r-Fr.)
FB	33	Justin Dziak (5-11, 225, Jr.)
TB	24	Jason Colson (6-1, 215, Jr.)
LT	70	Travis Garrett (6-6, 305, Sr.)
LG	76	Dan Mozes (6-4, 290, Jr.)
C	57	Jeremy Hines (6-2, 285, Jr.)
RG	65	Jeremy Sheffey (6-3, 290, Jr.)
RT	69	Garin Justice (6-8, 300, Sr.)
TE	49	Josh Bailey (6-5, 265, Sr.)
WR	7	Brandon Myles (6-3, 180, Sr.)
WR	82	Rayshawn Bolden (6-5, 210, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	66	Craig Wilson (6-1, 295, Jr.)
DT	99	Ernest Hunter (6-4, 285, Sr.)
DT	96	Keilen Dykes (6-4, 285, So.)
DE	92	Johnny Dingle (6-3, 245, So.)
SLB	59	Jeff Noechel (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	42	Jay Henry (6-2, 225, Jr.)
WLB	43	Kevin McLee (6-1, 250, Jr.)
CB	26	Anthony Mims (6-0, 175, Sr.)
CB	15	Dee McCann (5-11, 195, Sr.)
FS	4	Jahmile Addae (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	23	Mike Lorello (6-1, 200, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	44	Andy Good (6-0, 185, So.)
P	38	Phil Brady (5-9, 185, Sr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Jason Gwaltney, RB**  
Parade All-American who could play early.
- Jarrett Brown, QB**  
First-team all-stater from Florida (6-3, 190).
- Terry Mitchell, QB**  
Former Va. all-stater and Hargrave Military alum.
- Steve Slaton, RB**  
Eastern Pa. prep star who'll challenge Gwaltney.
- Marcus Melvin, DB**  
N.C. product will help ease loss of Pac-man Jones.

## Strong secondary, impact freshmen will keep 'Neers near top of Big East

**W**ith the graduation of quarterback Rasheed Marshall and much of the offensive line, plus the early departures of cornerback Adam "Pac-man" Jones and wideout Chris Henry to the NFL, it's easy to call this a rebuilding year for West Virginia.

Coach Rich Rodriguez will be challenged to duplicate last year's 8-4 effort in his fifth season at the helm of his alma mater. There are 11 returning starters and a highly regarded recruiting class, but the roster is made up of 70 percent freshmen and sophomores.

With a run-first philosophy and a deep stable of running backs to make up for the loss of second-team All-Big East tailback Kay-Jay Harris, the Mountaineers don't need a quarterback to step up immediately to fill Marshall's shoes, though

they have two with the skills to do so as early as this season.

Freshman Pat White, a former Alabama Mr. Football, turned down an offer to play baseball for the Angels and selected West Virginia over LSU. He'll likely get the first shot at the job, though he'll be pushed by speedy sophomore Dwayne Thompson, who saw time at wide receiver last season.

The Mountaineers' passing attack was efficient if not eye-popping last season, ranking 22nd in pass efficiency but No. 104 in total passing. No matter. Rodriguez will use junior tailback Jason Colson (686 yards, 4 TDs) to open up the developing passing game. Sophomore water bug Pernell Williams also figures to get some carries, but the player to watch is freshman Jason Gwaltney, a power-running Parade All-American from Long Island, N.Y., who chose WVU over Southern Cal and Ohio State.

West Virginia will continue to run because of a solid offensive line led by returning starting guards Dan Mozes and Jeremy Sheffey, both juniors, and tackle Garin Justice, a senior.

The team improved from 74th to 37th in total defense last season and returns six starters, with the notable exception of Jones, arguably the school's top cornerback ever. Senior Dee McCann will offer a bigger body (5-11, 195) at the 5-9 Pac-man's old post. Senior Anthony Mims occupies the other corner, with four other semi-experienced players making the position the team's deepest. Senior safeties Mike Lorello and Jahmile Addae, a first-team all-conference performer in '04, round out perhaps the league's best secondary—even without Jones.

Defensive tackle Ernest Hunter will anchor the line, along with sophomore Keilen Dykes. Sophomore end Johnny Dingle, a transfer from Florida, gets a shot after sitting out a year. Adam Lehnort and his cocksure swagger will be missed in the linebacking corps, which is unproven but gets a big injection of talent from the recruiting class.

After last season's kicking miseries, Rodriguez made it a priority in recruiting, landing Pat McAfee and Scott Kozlowski. McAfee will challenge sophomore placekicker Andy Good, who emerged late last season, while Kozlowski could unseat senior punter Phil Brady.



PAT WHITE, QB

GARY LANE / WIRE IMAGE.COM



# CONNECTICUT

## HUSKIES



STORRS, CONN.

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 3-3 Big East (beat Toledo in the Motor City Bowl, 39-10)

Stadium: Rentschler Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 40,000

Official athletic Web site: [www.uconnhuskies.com](http://www.uconnhuskies.com)



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

### PRESEASON RANK:

4

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Randy Edsall, 7th Year (32-37) Career Record: 32-37

Assistant coaches: Norries Wilson (off. coord./Cs/QBs), Hank Hughes (asst. head coach def./def. line), Todd Orlando (def. coord./ILBs), Rob Ambrose (pass. game coord./QBs), Lyndon Johnson (STs coord./OLBs), Scott Lakatos (DBs), Vinny Marino (recruiting coord./WRs), Dave McMichael (OTs/TEs), Terry Richardson (RBs)



CORNELL BROCKINGTON, RB

## Huskies lose lead dog in NFL-bound QB Orlovsky, but strong one-two rushing punch could carry them

It's been quite a run for Connecticut. Since Nov. 1, 2002, the Huskies have posted a 21-7 record, including a win in last year's Motor City Bowl that capped an 8-4 season.

With a bowl victory, a new stadium and coach Randy Edsall signed to a six-year contract extension, the Huskies have proven they can be a legitimate Big East contender. Now the question is whether they can remain competitive without much of last year's defensive core and all-everything quarterback Dan Orlovsky, who helped Edsall lift the program up from Division I-AA.

With Orlovsky, the Huskies averaged 429.8 yards per game, 19th in the nation, and had a 10th-ranked passing game. With a new quarterback and three new linemen, it's a sure bet that Edsall will run the ball far more in '05.

That's not necessarily a bad thing. The Huskies still have an explosive ground attack featuring juniors Cornell Brockington and Terry Caulley, perhaps the nation's best backfield duo now that

Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams have left Auburn for the NFL.

Caulley, a Freshman All-American in 2002, was leading the nation in rushing with 601 yards in 2003 when he injured a knee. He sat out all of last season. Brockington led the Big East in rushing as a sophomore in '04 with 1,218 yards. If the 5-7 Caulley regains his speed, he'll add a dimension to the offense that last year's team lacked.

The backs should ease the transition of junior Matt Bonislawski, the front-runner to replace Orlovsky, though highly touted redshirt freshman D.J. Hernandez will push him. Both quarterbacks run better than their dropback predecessor and could improve on Orlovsky's 15 interceptions from '04.

Three of the Huskies' five wide receivers from a year ago have graduated, but it's still a deep unit. Senior Jason Williams figures to be the go-to guy, though speedy junior Brandon Young is back after missing all of '04 with a foot injury. Sophomore Brandon McLean is small (5-10, 157 pounds), but also figures into the mix. Junior Dan Murray (6-5, 244) is a prototype tight end who could play a more prominent role after a 28-catch season.

Defensive end Shawn Mayne will face more double teams now that Tyler King is gone. Junior Jason Ward filled in admirably last season when King was hurt and that should help his transition into full-time duty. Defensive tackle Deon McPhee, a senior co-captain, anchors the line at tackle.

Linebackers Alfred Fincher and Maurice Lloyd will be missed, as well as cornerback Justin Perkins. Linebacker James Hargrave, a senior, and junior safety M.J. Estep should play more prominent roles. The secondary must improve on last year's interception total (10). The talent is there with junior cornerbacks Ernest Cole and Allan Barnes.

Still, it will be tough to match last season's defensive unit, which ranked No. 27 in the country in total defense (327 yards per game) while allowing just 21.7 points per game.

After a miserable freshman year in 2003, kicker Matt Nuzie connected on 20 of 28 field goals last season and was a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award.

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Buffalo	29-0
S. 10	Liberty	
S. 17	@GEORGIA TECH	10-30
O. 1	@ARMY	40-3
O. 7	Syracuse	30-42
O. 15	@CINCINNATI	
O. 22	Rutgers	41-35
N. 2	@WEST VIRGINIA	19-31
N. 12	@PITTSBURGH	29-17
N. 26	South Florida	
D. 3	Louisville	

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/22

#### OFFENSE

QB	16	Matt Bonislawski (6-4, 207, Jr.)
FB	30	Deon Anderson (5-11, 240, Sr.)
TB	33	Cornell Brockington (6-0, 192, Jr.)
LT	78	Grant Preston (6-4, 307, Sr.)
LG	57	Matt Applebaum (6-4, 283, Jr.)
C	56	Joe Akers (6-1, 297, Fr.)
RG	75	Brian Kersmanc (6-5, 299, So.)
RT	72	Craig Berry (6-6, 324, Jr.)
TE	46	Dan Murray (6-5, 244, Jr.)
WR	80	Jason Williams (6-0, 177, Sr.)
WR	83	Brandon Young (6-0, 200, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	40	Shawn Mayne (6-3, 243, Sr.)
DT	76	Deon McPhee (6-2, 284, Sr.)
DT	93	Rhema Fuller (6-3, 283, Jr.)
DE	59	Jason Ward (6-3, 248, Jr.)
SLB	32	James Hargrave (5-11, 224, Sr.)
MLB	47	Taurien Sowell (6-0, 236, Sr.)
WLB	48	Danny Lansanah (6-1, 247, So.)
CB	41	Ernest Cole (5-10, 177, Jr.)
CB	26	Allan Barnes (6-0, 190, Jr.)
FS	35	M.J. Estep (6-1, 197, Jr.)
SS	38	Ricky McCollum (6-1, 217, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	98	Matt Nuzie (5-11, 200, Jr.)
P	37	Shane Hussar (5-10, 190, So.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Joe Akers, OL  
Touted Maryland all-stater shows great potential.
2. Travis Watson, WR  
A rare recruit from Texas expected to help soon.
3. Rob Getek, TE  
Massive blocker may be tested in interior of line.
4. Andre Dixon, RB  
Touted N.J. recruit seeks early playing time.
5. Donald Brown, RB/DB  
Another N.J. product; will be tested on both sides.



TERRY CAULEY, RB

MIKE ROSS / AI WIRE

BIG EAST

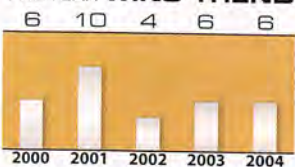


# SYRACUSE

## ORANGE

**2004 Record:** 6-6 overall, 4-2 Big East  
(lost to Georgia Tech in the Champs Sports Bowl, 51-14)  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.suathletics.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	West Virginia	6-27
S. 10	Buffalo	37-17
S. 17	Virginia	10-31
O. 1	@FLORIDA STATE	13-17
O. 7	@CONNECTICUT	42-30
O. 15	Rutgers	41-31
O. 22	@PITTSBURGH	38-31 (OT)
O. 29	Cincinnati	19-7
N. 12	South Florida	
N. 19	@NOTRE DAME	
N. 26	@LOUISVILLE	

**Head coach:** Greg Robinson,  
1st Year (0-0)

**Career Record:** 0-0

**Stadium:** Carrier Dome

**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 49,262

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 27/11

#### OFFENSE

QB	10 Perry Patterson (6-4, 248, Jr.)
FB	38 Breyone Evans (6-0, 234, So.)
TB	1 Damien Rhodes (6-0, 217, Sr.)
OT	73 Kurt Falke (6-6, 287, Sr.)
OG	72 Jason Greene (6-6, 300, Sr.)
C	71 Steve Franklin (6-5, 321, Sr.)
OG	68 Ryan Durand (6-5, 320, r-Fr.)
OT	69 Quinn Ojinnaka (6-5, 297, Sr.)
TE	85 Joe Kowalewski (6-4, 262, Sr.)
WR	81 Tim Lane (6-2, 212, Jr.)
WR	82 Rice Moss (6-2, 195, So.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	90 James Wyche (6-6, 267, Sr.)
NT	51 Tony Jenkins (6-3, 293, So.)
DT	70 Kader Drame (6-5, 284, Sr.)
RE	94 Ryan LaCasse (6-3, 255, Sr.)
SLB	41 Kellen Pruitt (6-4, 226, Sr.)
MLB	57 Jerry Mackey (6-1, 241, Jr.)
WLB	92 Tommy Harris (6-2, 238, Sr.)
LCB	28 Tanard Jackson (6-1, 189, Jr.)
RCB	15 DeAndre LaCaille (6-0, 210, Sr.)
FS	20 Anthony Smith (6-1, 187, Sr.)
SS	36 Reggie McCoy (6-0, 187, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	47 Brendan Carney (6-5, 202, Jr.)
P	47 Brendan Carney (6-5, 202, Jr.)

After a pair of underachieving 6-6 seasons, it's tempting to predict improvement for Syracuse under new coach Greg Robinson, especially with the Big East seemingly more wide-open than ever.

Then again, the Orange showed promise heading into each of the last two seasons. Last season was especially puzzling as they finished the season by losing to lowly Temple and soundly defeating Boston College before losing to Georgia Tech, 51-14, in the Champs Sports Bowl.

If nothing else, the team will have a different look. Robinson has scrapped Paul Pasqualoni's intricate running schemes in favor of a West Coast offense. New coordinator Brian Pariani, who worked under such a system with Mike Shanahan and the Denver Broncos, will balance an offense that formerly ran 60 percent of the time.

Syracuse returns 15 starters, but must replace three first-team All-Big East performers on offense: running back Walter Reyes, tackle Adam Terry and center Matt Tarullo. Senior tailback Damien Rhodes earned second-team all-conference honors after rushing for 870 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Dual threat Joe Fields will battle incumbent Perry Patterson for the starting quarterback role. Patterson's weight was a constant issue for Pasqualoni and the quarterback tipped the scales at 248 during spring ball. With Robinson disposing of the option that was a part of the offense under Pasqualoni, Patterson's weight shouldn't be as much of an issue.

Robinson, who spent 14 years as an NFL assistant on the defensive side of the ball before working last season at Texas, inherits a defense that fields players with starting or meaningful experience at every position except strong safety.

Sophomores Reggie McCoy and Dowayne Davis will compete to replace all-conference first-teamer Diamond Ferri at strong safety. Senior Anthony Smith, a second-team All-Big East choice, returns at free safety.

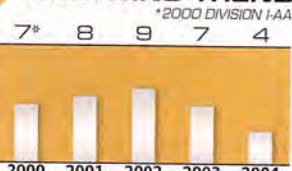
Senior defensive end James Wyche, a second-team all-conference performer, recorded 5.5 sacks in '04. Punter/kicker Brendan Carney, another second-team selection, is also back.

# SOUTH FLORIDA

## BULLS

**2004 Record:** 4-7 overall, 3-5 Conference USA  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.gobulls.usf.edu

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@PENN STATE	
S. 10	Florida A&M	
S. 17	UCF	
S. 24	Louisville	9-41
O. 1	@MIAMI (FL)	
O. 15	@PITTSBURGH	14-43
O. 22	West Virginia	
N. 5	@RUTGERS	
N. 12	@SYRACUSE	
N. 19	Cincinnati	23-45
N. 26	@CONNECTICUT	

**Head coach:** Jim Leavitt,  
9th Year (55-33)

**Career Record:** 55-33

**Stadium:** Raymond James Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 65,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/32

#### OFFENSE

QB	3 Pat Julmiste (6-3, 220, Jr.)
FB	39 Siaso Uhatate (6-2, 240, So.)
TB	2 Andre Hall (5-10, 205, Sr.)
LT	72 Jerome Springfield (6-8, 320, So.)
LG	68 Frank Davis (6-4, 310, Sr.)
C	61 John Miller (6-0, 275, Sr.)
RG	74 Chris Carothers (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RT	78 Mark Dile (6-4, 275, So.)
TE	85 Derek Carter (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	81 S.J. Green (6-3, 200, Jr.)
WR	8 Johnny Peyton (6-5, 185, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	46 Tavarious Robinson (6-4, 255, Jr.)
NT	94 Allen Cray (6-0, 265, So.)
DT	99 Tim Jones (6-3, 265, Sr.)
DE	56 Terrence Royal (6-3, 255, Sr.)
SLB	51 Stephen Nicholas (6-3, 225, Jr.)
MLB	59 Ben Moffit (6-2, 230, So.)
WLB	58 Ronnie McCullough (6-1, 220, So.)
LCB	21 Trae Williams (5-10, 185, So.)
RCB	42 D'Juan Brown (5-11, 175, Sr.)
FS	17 Danny Verpaele (5-11, 185, So.)
SS	27 Johnnie Jones (6-3, 205, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	35 Kyle Bronson (6-0, 190, So.)
P	47 Brandon Baker (6-4, 200, Sr.)

South Florida has gone from start-up program to member of a BCS conference in just eight years, not missing a beat until last season's 4-7 record in its second and final campaign in Conference USA.

Jim Leavitt, the only head coach USF has employed, has long envisioned the Bulls as competitors on the field and on the recruiting trail with in-state powers Florida, Florida State and Miami. With a 2005 schedule that includes seven schools that played in bowls last season—including a first-ever matchup with Miami—Leavitt should learn quickly if USF has bridged the gap.

The Bulls are 28-16 since making the leap to Division I-A. Last year's record was USF's worst ever, but of the Bulls' 20 departing seniors, only five started all season and three of those were on the offensive line.

No doubt that trio will be missed by running back Andre Hall, who briefly thought of turning pro after rushing for 1,357 yards and 11 touchdowns on 210 carries. The 5-foot-10, 205-pound Hall figures to face a tougher challenge this season with a younger line and an unsettled quarterback situation.

Pat Julmiste unseated Ronnie Banks before last season as the starting QB, but completed just 47.8 percent of his passes. Julmiste will face a challenge from sophomore Courtney Denson, a transfer from Auburn.

Defensively, the Bulls picked off just four passes last year, second fewest in Division I-A, and three were by players who have since graduated. The defensive line lost tackle Lee Roy Selmon Jr. and two part-time starters, but will get a boost from the return of senior defensive tackle Tim Jones, who was redshirted last year. Junior linebacker Stephen Nicholas enjoyed a breakout season in '04.

The Bulls play to modest crowds at Raymond James Stadium and remain overshadowed by Florida and Florida State. They go virtually unnoticed in the nation's No. 13 media market, with modest expectations held by most everyone except Leavitt.

"Last year was the first time we hit some struggles," he says. "Standards are high and I don't want the expectations for this program to lower. It's my job to get us right back in the hunt and I'm planning on that happening this year."



# CINCINNATI

## BEARCATS



**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 5-3 Conference USA  
**Beat Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl, 32-14**  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.ucbearcats.com

The Bearcats enter the Big East coming off a 7-5 season, winning five of their last six, including a win over Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl. Ambitious second-year coach Mark Dantonio, formerly defensive coordinator at Ohio State, seems like the guy to make Cincinnati a perennial contender.

Despite all of those positives, it's not the best of times for UC to take a step up in competition. Not after losing its top eight defensive players, including all-conference defensive ends Trent Cole and Andre Frazier and top linebacker Lamar Enzor. On offense, the team will miss record-setting quarterback Gino Guidugli, most of the offensive line, the leading rusher (Richard Hall) and receiver (Hannibal Thomas). About the only unit intact is special teams, where placekicker Kevin Lovell and punter Chet Ervin return.

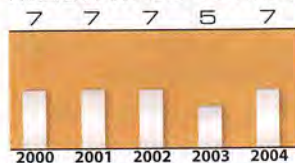
In its last five seasons in Conference USA, Cincinnati posted a co-championship and three runner-up finishes, including a four-way tie last year. It got a scary preview of life without Guidugli in its last regular-season game of '04, losing to fellow Big East transfer Louisville 70-7 while the Bearcat quarterback sat out with a broken hand.

Finding a replacement for Guidugli is Dantonio's top priority. Redshirt freshman Dustin Grutza holds an edge over two-time Junior College All-American Nick Davila, sophomore Todd Spitzer and freshman Tony Pike.

Sophomore running backs Butler Benton (453 yards rushing on 100 carries) and Bradley Glatthaar (315 on 72) will take over for Hall. Junior tight end Brent Celek (8 TDs) returns, as does left tackle Steve Eastlake, who will start for a third season.

Adam Roberts, who moved from defensive end to tackle last year, is one of the few significant defensive contributors returning, along with cornerback Antoine Horton and safeties JaJuan Hall and Dominic Ross. Anthony Hoke, a member of last season's Conference USA All-Freshman Team, is a leading candidate to fill one of the spots at defensive end.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Eastern Michigan	
S. 10	@PENN STATE	
S. 17	Western Carolina	
S. 28	@MIAMI (OH)	45-26
O. 8	@PITTSBURGH	
O. 15	Connecticut	
O. 22	Louisville	7-70
O. 29	@SYRACUSE	7-19
N. 9	West Virginia	
N. 19	@SOUTH FLORIDA	45-23
N. 26	@RUTGERS	

**Head coach:** Mark Dantonio,  
2nd Year (7-5)

**Career Record:** 7-5

**Stadium:** Nippert Stadium

**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 35,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 7  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 36/26

#### OFFENSE

QB	4	Dustin Grutza (6-3, 200, r-Fr.)
FB	86	Doug Jones (6-4, 282, So.)
TB	23	Butler Benton (6-1, 210, So.)
LT	71	Steve Eastlake (6-5, 294, Sr.)
LG	70	Ryan Brown (6-2, 287, Sr.)
C	58	Matt Webster (6-3, 284, Sr.)
RG	57	Jeff Reinstatler (6-2, 287, Jr.)
RT	78	Frank Straub (6-6, 311, Jr.)
TE	85	Brent Celek (6-4, 250, Jr.)
WR	14	Earnest Jackson (6-3, 200, So.)
WR	22	Derick Ross (5-10, 191, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	12	Anthony Hoke (6-1, 235, So.)
DT	94	Adam Roberts (6-3, 257, Sr.)
DT	61	Jordan Roth (6-2, 275, So.)
DE	56	Michael Brown (6-2, 234, Sr.)
LB	55	Leo Morgan (6-1, 230, Jr.)
LB	31	Jon Carpenter (5-11, 220, So.)
LB	82	Angelo Craig (6-5, 205, So.)
CB	5	Antoine Horton (5-10, 185, Jr.)
CB	33	John Bowie (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FS	38	JaJuan Hall (6-0, 186, Jr.)
SS	49	Dominic Ross (6-0, 201, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Kevin Lovell (5-10, 150, Jr.)
P	12	Chet Ervin (6-3, 190, Sr.)

# RUTGERS

## SCARLET KNIGHTS



**2004 Record:** 4-7 overall, 1-5 Big East  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.scarletknights.com

This fall, Greg Schiano will field the most experienced team he's had in his five seasons at Rutgers, with 16 returning starters. He can turn to his top five rushers from 2004, his top nine receivers and 10 of his leading 11 tacklers.

The Scarlet Knights have not had a winning season since 1992 and have been to just one bowl game in their history. A breakthrough season seems unlikely. After all, Rutgers returned 17 starters from a 5-7 team last year and fell to 4-7.

The team won just one conference game in 2004 and that opponent (Temple) has been evicted from the Big East. Most of last year's offensive line is gone, along with leading tackler Jarvis Johnson. There's no momentum from last season for the Scarlet Knights, not after surrendering 96 points and 1,100 yards in their final two games.

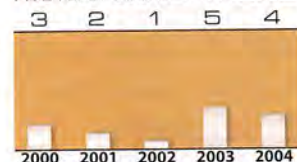
Still, there's reason for optimism, and not just because Rutgers played competitively last season against Connecticut, Syracuse, West Virginia and departing conference power Boston College. Junior tailbacks Brian Leonard and Justise Harrison figure to rank among the best rushing tandems in the league. Quarterback Ryan Hart, a veteran of 27 starts, led the Big East in yards per game (286.7), completing 65.1 percent of his passes for 3,154 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Leonard, who models his game after that of Tampa Bay Buccaneers fullback Mike Alstott, led the league in all-purpose yards per game (125.0) and caught 61 passes for 518 yards, both tops in the nation for running backs. Hart projects as the starting signal-caller, but after too many turnovers last season Schiano is opening the door for Mike Teel or Terrence Shawell to take over.

Whoever ends up behind center can turn to two all-conference picks: wide receiver Tres Moses, who caught 81 passes for 1,056 yards, and tight end Clark Harris (53 receptions).

Senior defensive end Ryan Neill, who recorded eight sacks and earned all-conference honors in 2004, leads a unit that should be bolstered by the addition of defensive lineman Carl Howard, a former New Jersey prep star who sat out last season after transferring from Virginia Tech.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@ILLINOIS	
S. 10	Villanova	
S. 17	@BUFFALO	
S. 30	Pittsburgh	17-41
O. 8	West Virginia	30-35
O. 15	@SYRACUSE	31-41
O. 22	@CONNECTICUT	35-41
O. 29	Navy	21-54
N. 5	South Florida	
N. 11	@LOUISVILLE	
N. 26	Cincinnati	

**Head coach:** Greg Schiano,  
5th Year (12-34)

**Career Record:** 12-34

**Stadium:** Rutgers Stadium

**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 42,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 43/25

#### OFFENSE

QB	13	Ryan Hart (6-2, 200, Sr.)
FB	23	Brian Leonard (6-2, 230, Sr.)
RB	2	Clarence Pittman (5-10, 208, Sr.)
OT	77	Pedro Sosa (6-5, 300, So.)
OG	71	Jeremy Zutthah (6-4, 285, So.)
C	57	Joe Giacobbe (6-1, 270, Jr.)
OG	76	John Glass (6-5, 300, Sr.)
OT	79	Sameeh McDonald (6-5, 295, Sr.)
TE	81	Clark Harris (6-6, 250, Sr.)
WR	8	Tres Moses (5-10, 191, Sr.)
WR	4	Shawn Tucker (6-2, 205, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	94	Val Barnaby (6-5, 270, Sr.)
DT	98	Luis Rivas (6-4, 285, Sr.)
DT	65	Cameron Stephenson (6-5, 305, So.)
DE	91	Ryan Neill (6-3, 260, Sr.)
LB	3	Terry Byne (6-2, 225, Sr.)
LB	20	Devraun Thompson (5-11, 225, Jr.)
LB	38	Will Gilkison (6-2, 230, Sr.)
CB	24	Joe Porter (6-0, 198, Jr.)
CB	11	Derrick Roberson (5-10, 175, Jr.)
S	43	Ron Girault (5-11, 195, So.)
S	33	Jason Nugent (6-1, 209, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Jeremy Ito (5-11, 180, So.)
P	30	Joe Radigan (6-5, 220, Jr.)



Games to watch:

- >> **Iowa at Purdue**, Oct. 8  
If Boilers get past this one, a Big Ten title will be in clear view.
- >> **Michigan at Iowa**, Oct. 22  
Biggest hurdle standing in the way of Wolverines and a Big Ten championship.
- >> **Ohio State at Michigan**, Nov. 19  
Buckeyes look for fourth series win in five years.

official conference Web site:  
[www.bigten.org](http://www.bigten.org)



## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

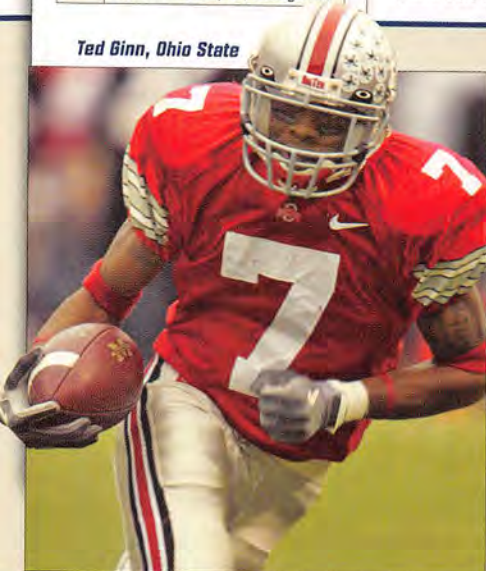
### Offense

QB	<b>Drew Tate</b> , Jr., Iowa
RB	<b>Michael Hart</b> , Soph., Michigan
RB	<b>Laurence Maroney</b> , Jr., Minnesota
OL	<b>Greg Eslinger</b> , Sr., Minnesota
OL	<b>Matt Lentz</b> , Sr., Michigan
OL	<b>Mark Setterstrom</b> , Sr., Minnesota
OL	<b>Nick Mangold</b> , Sr., Ohio State
OL	<b>Stephon Wheeler</b> , Sr., Michigan St.
WR	<b>Ted Ginn</b> , Soph., Ohio State
WR	<b>Kyle Ingraham</b> , Jr., Purdue
TE	<b>Charles Davis</b> , Sr., Purdue
PK	<b>Kyle Schlicher</b> , Jr., Iowa

### Defense

DL	<b>Gabe Watson</b> , Sr., Michigan
DL	<b>Brandon Villarreal</b> , Sr., Purdue
DL	<b>LaMarr Woodley</b> , Jr., Michigan
LB	<b>A.J. Hawk</b> , Sr., Ohio State
LB	<b>Abdul Hodge</b> , Sr., Iowa
LB	<b>Tim McFarigle</b> , Sr., Northwestern
LB	<b>Chad Greenway</b> , Sr., Iowa
DB	<b>Tracy Porter</b> , Soph., Indiana
DB	<b>Ashton Youboty</b> , Sr., Ohio State
DB	<b>Brett Bell</b> , Sr., Wisconsin
DB	<b>Calvin Lowry</b> , Sr., Penn State
P	<b>Brandon Fields</b> , Sr., Michigan St.

Ted Ginn, Ohio State



## Proven talent is back in abundance, but there's still room for a surprise at the top

By Jack Ebling  
Street & Smith's Correspondent

Despite contributing half of the Final Four for the third time in seven seasons, the Big Ten is more than a basketball conference.

With nine consensus All-Americans last year (more than any other league), four Top 25 teams in the final polls (tied for first with the SEC), three bowl winners and three others that lost postseason games by a total of eight points, the Big Ten proved it still plays excellent football.

If that message didn't get through in 2004, it should this fall when four teams vie for national honors.

Michigan and Ohio State? What else is new? But those powers with a combined 71 conference titles aren't alone. Iowa has had three straight seasons with double-digit wins. And Purdue could be as dangerous as any team in any league.

That's saying something this year in a conference with more proven talent than Big Ten coaches have seen in many years. Fifteen first-team all-league selections return, including a pair of All-Americans in Ohio State junior linebacker A.J. Hawk and Michigan State senior punter Brandon Fields.

Eight programs return starting quarterbacks, all but Purdue, Illinois and Indiana. Six of the top 10 rushers are back, including Michigan sophomore Michael Hart (1,455 yards last season) and Minnesota junior Laurence Maroney (1,348). And seven of the top 10 receivers will boost their career totals.

Despite the departures of 30 NFL draft picks, including seven from Wisconsin, every Big Ten team but the Badgers will have more than half its

starters back. Nine of the 11 programs return at least three first-team offensive linemen. Nine others have two or more defensive linemen back.

The conference welcomes two new head coaches. Ron Zook moves from Florida to Illinois but gets to keep his orange-and-blue wardrobe. And Terry Hoeggner heads to Indiana after six years of excellence at Miami of Ohio.

The good news for the Fighting Illini and the Hoosiers is that seven schools have won or shared the Big Ten title in the past decade. The bad news for both teams is that it's a long climb to the top after a 1-7 league finish.

Difficult, but not impossible. If the I's have it tougher than most teams, Zook and Hoeggner need to follow the trail blazed by Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz. From a one-win season in 1999 to a second shared crown in the last three seasons, Ferentz has shown what can happen with a total commitment.

Ferentz is still three league championships and 53 wins behind Lloyd Carr of Michigan, who needs just one victory to join Barry Alvarez of Wisconsin and nine other coaches in the Big Ten's 100-win club.

Carr and Ohio State's Jim Tressel have national titles to their credit. Carr could well add another Big Ten ring next winter. If he doesn't, look to a program with a lot more to prove and the talent to do so, Purdue.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver:	<b>Ted Ginn</b> , Ohio State
Best hands:	<b>Jason Avant</b> , WR, Michigan
Best passing QB:	<b>Drew Tate</b> , Iowa
Best running QB:	<b>Drew Stanton</b> , Michigan State
Most elusive RB:	<b>Laurence Maroney</b> , Minnesota
Best instincts:	<b>Tim McFarigle</b> , LB, Northwestern
Best athlete:	<b>Steve Breaston</b> , WR/KR, Michigan
Best under pressure:	<b>Drew Tate</b> , QB, Iowa
Top NFL prospect:	<b>Ted Ginn</b> , WR/CB/KR, Ohio State
Top impact freshman:	<b>Justin King</b> , CB, Penn State
Hardest hitter:	<b>LaMarr Woodley</b> , DE/OLB Michigan
Biggest underachiever:	<b>Justin Zwick</b> , QB, Ohio State

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist:	<b>Kirk Ferentz</b> , Iowa
Best recruiter:	<b>Lloyd Carr</b> , Michigan
Coach on the spot:	<b>Joe Paterno</b> , Penn State

### Don't be surprised if ...

An outright championship for Purdue [without playing Michigan or Ohio State] prompts talk of a 10-game, round-robin Big Ten schedule in a 12-game season.

### One man's opinion

"Michigan has the best talent again, but you could have a four-way tie for the title. And four or five other teams are good enough to spring an upset that decides who wins it."

—a Big Ten assistant coach

### Rating the recruits

- 1. Michigan**  
What's new? Nothing. The Wolverines reloaded.
- 2. Ohio State**  
Three straight bowl wins didn't hurt the harvest.
- 3. Iowa**  
Thirty-one wins in three years unlocked new doors.
- 4. Penn State**  
Joe Paterno's best incoming class in many years.
- 5. Wisconsin**  
Badgers protected back yard, then branched out.
- 6. Illinois**  
Excellent start for new coach Ron Zook and his staff.
- 7. Purdue**  
Joe Tiller got all eight of his in-state targets.
- 8. Michigan State**  
Still building depth to avoid deep trouble.
- 9. Minnesota**  
Gophers got athletes, will now make them players.
- 10. Northwestern**  
More than one star from the Lone Star State.
- 11. Indiana**  
Decent start in Terry Hoeggner's Big Ten debut.





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**Smile Certificate**

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**Average Cover 19pts**

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9/2 Cardinals (+7) Broncos 33-21 **W**

**PRE SEASON UPSET OF YR:**

8/28 Browns (+5) Chiefs 21-19 **W**

**GAME OF MONTH:**

8/16 Seahawks (+3) Packers 21-3 **W**

**COLLEGE KICKOFF OF YR:**

8/28 Va Tech (+17 1/2) USC 13-24 **W**

**BLOWOUT OF YR:**

8/28 Colts (-4) Bills 30-17 **W**

**AUGUST TRIPLE CROWN:**

8/21 Steelers (-3 1/2) Texans 38-3 **W**  
Jets (+4 1/2) Colts 31-7 **W**  
Chargers (+3) Cards 38-13 **W**

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CHAD HENNE, QB

# M MICHIGAN WOLVERINES



ANN ARBOR, MICH.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 7-1 Big Ten (lost to Texas in the Rose Bowl, 38-37)

Stadium: Michigan Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 107,501

Official athletic Web site: [www.mgoblue.com](http://www.mgoblue.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Lloyd Carr, 11th Year (95-29) Career Record: 95-29

Assistant coaches: Erik Campbell (asst. head coach/WBs), Mike DeBord (special teams/recruiting coord.), Ron English (def. secondary), Jim Hermann (def. coord./LBs), Fred Jackson (assoc. head coach/RBs), Scot Loeffler (QBs), Terry Malone (off. coord./TEs), Andy Moeller (off. line), Steve Stripling (def. line)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Northern Illinois	
S. 10	Notre Dame	20-28
S. 17	Eastern Michigan	
S. 24	@WISCONSIN	
O. 1	@MICHIGAN STATE	45-37 (OT)
O. 8	Minnesota	27-24
O. 15	Penn State	
O. 22	@IOWA	30-17
O. 29	@NORTHWESTERN	42-20
N. 12	Indiana	35-14
N. 19	Ohio State	21-37

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/22

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Chad Henne (6-2, 217, So.)
FB	40	Obi Oluigbo (6-0, 237, Sr.)
TB	20	Michael Hart (5-9, 192, So.)
LT	79	Adam Stenavich (6-5, 317, Sr.)
LG	72	Rueben Riley (6-3, 304, Sr.)
C	54	Mark Bihl (6-4, 297, Sr.)
RG	67	Matt Lentz (6-6, 305, Sr.)
RT	77	Jake Long (6-7, 338, Jr.)
TE	88	Tim Massaquoi (6-4, 248, Sr.)
WR	8	Jason Avant (6-1, 210, Sr.)
WR	15	Steve Breaston (6-1, 179, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	90	Tim Jamison (6-3, 250, So.)
DT	78	Gabe Watson (6-4, 331, Sr.)
DT	94	Patrick Massey (6-8, 284, Sr.)
DE	56	LaMarr Woodley (6-2, 268, Jr.)
SLB	6	Prescott Burgess (6-3, 236, Jr.)
MLB	36	Scott McClintock (6-2, 246, Sr.)
WLB	37	Chris Graham (5-11, 225, So.)
CB	29	Leon Hall (5-11, 191, Jr.)
CB	13	Grant Mason (6-0, 196, Sr.)
FS	21	Ryan Mundy (6-1, 204, Jr.)
SS	31	Branden Englemore (5-11, 199, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Garrett Rivas (5-9, 216, Jr.)
P	2	Mark Spencer (6-0, 223, Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Kevin Grady, RB**  
Has been compared with Earl Campbell.
- Marques Slocum, DT**  
One of nation's top prospects at OG as well.
- Antonio Bass, ATH**  
Outstanding physical tools; played QB as a prep.
- Terrance Taylor, DT**  
Outstanding quickness for a big man.
- Jason Fordier, QB**  
Will Californian be the next Tom Brady?

## Wolverines possess full cupboard on offense, but defense must improve for Maize-and-Blue to reach national goals

**A**ny program can over-achieve and capture a conference title once.

To post 37 straight winning records and play in 30 bowls in a row is inconceivable—unless you're a Wolverine.

That amazing consistency is a blessing and a curse. It leads to can't-miss recruiting harvests and teams that should never lose more than three games. It also produces more pressure than a python when expectations aren't met.

That's what happened last season in a classic half-full, half-empty scenario. For those wearing Maize-and-Blue glasses, it was another year of great accomplishments. To everyone else, it was a blown opportunity.

Sure, Michigan shared the Big Ten title again—its 42nd championship (six more than Iowa, Northwestern, Purdue, Michigan State, Indiana and Penn State combined).

But coach Lloyd Carr's players were 9-3 overall, 7-1 in league play, just getting by Michigan State in triple overtime and surviving a total second-half collapse against Notre Dame. They did lose to Ohio State with an outright Big Ten crown on the line and to Texas in a wild-but-winnable Rose Bowl.

The 2005 Wolverines have all the necessary people to win their second national title in Carr's 11 seasons. They also have the potential to finish fourth in the conference and out of the Top 10 and BCS. Don't be surprised if they're somewhere in the middle.

With three of the first 33 picks in the NFL Draft, more than any school except Auburn, Michigan has some rebuilding to do. But Carr has plenty of bricks available with 16 starters back—eight on offense, seven on defense and one kicker.

No team in the country has a better pair of sophomores than quarterback Chad Henne and running back Michael Hart. Neither was expected to start last season. But when injuries opened the door in September, a pair of H-bombs exploded.

Henne stepped in for Matt Gutierrez on the eve of the opener and completed exactly 20 passes per game. He was 240-for-399—60.2-percent accuracy—



JASON AVANT, WR

for 2,743 yards and 25 touchdowns. And his 12 interceptions meant a turnover every 33.3 throws.

Hart was as good as any newcomer in the nation except Oklahoma runner Adrian Peterson. He carried 282 times for a league-best 1,455 yards, a 5.2 average and nine TDs. Those numbers don't show how often he broke tackles and opponents' hearts, turning sure losses into first downs.

Granted, Michigan loses the nation's

best receiver in Biletnikoff Award honoree Braylon Edwards and one of the top centers in Rimington Award co-recipient David Baas. Edwards was the No. 1 choice of the Cleveland Browns and the third selection overall. Baas, picked by the San Francisco 49ers, was the first name called in the second round.

Also gone is fullback Kevin Dudley, an outstanding lead blocker who only touched the ball eight times. But the Wolverines were second in the league with 30.8 points per game last season, and might do just as well this time.

One reason is the return of four key offensive linemen. Left tackle Adam Stenavich and right guard Matt Lentz are back for their fifth years. Both were All-Big Ten as juniors. Left guard Rueben Riley started the last seven games as a sophomore, while right tackle Jake Long started the final 10 as a redshirt freshman.

No other program could lose a player like Edwards and claim it has the nation's best receiving corps. Senior Jason Avant and junior Steve Breaston are scary wideouts with big-play potential. Fifth-year tight end Tim Massaquoi was an all-league pick, but junior Tyler Ecker might be even better at the position.

Avant has NFL hands and makes the tough catch over the middle. Injuries and Edwards' brilliance limited him to 38 grabs for 447 yards and three scores last season. Breaston, one of the most electrifying players at any level, had 34 receptions, including three for 77 yards against Texas. Massaquoi and Ecker combined for 35 catches, often at just the right times.

The Wolverines are just as deep at other spots.



Junior Mark Bihl (6-4, 297) has started three games and should replace Baas at center. Gutierrez, a junior, was the No. 1 quarterback before injuring his shoulder last August. And freshman running back Kevin Grady set nearly every Michigan high school rushing mark. Think Earl Campbell—and expect him to take at least some of Hart's carries.

Sophomore Max Martin is another threat at running back with the speed to score from anywhere on the field. If he and his teammates can't find the end zone, junior placekicker Garrett Rivas can pick up three points. He scored 13 in the Rose Bowl and had 19 field goals in 24 tries last season.

The problem comes when 37 points aren't enough to win, as Michigan learned the hard way against Texas. Jim Herrmann's defense allowed an average of 35 points against the Fighting Irish, Spartans, Buckeyes and Longhorns, ranking seventh in the league in points surrendered.

For only the second time in 125 seasons, the Wolverines failed to hold an opponent to less than 10 points. Their overall yield, 279 points, was the highest in school history—165 more than in 1997 when they shared the national championship.

Michigan will have to replace half its secondary and linebacking corps this year, including cornerback Marlin Jackson, the first-round pick of the Indianapolis Colts, and strong safety Ernest Shazor, who led the team in tackles but left school early and went undrafted.

The Wolverines' other losses aren't as well known, but each will be missed. Inside linebacker Lawrence Reid had 70 tackles, including

12 for losses and three sacks, and outside linebacker Roy Manning prevented a loss to Michigan State in the first overtime.

Back to anchor the defensive line is slimmed-down senior tackle Gabe Watson (6-4, 331), an All-Big Ten choice who can dominate a game and tie up two blockers on every play. But the team's best defender is junior end/outside linebacker LaMarr Woodley, who had 70 tackles, 16 stops for losses and three forced fumbles.

Three fifth-year players—tackle Pat Massey, inside linebacker Scott McClintock and outside linebacker Pierre Woods—give Michigan plenty of experience, having seen 37 victories.

Also back are big-play junior cornerback Leon Hall, whose hustle saved a win at Purdue, and junior free safety Ryan Mundy, a solid all-around player with an NFL future. Each had two interceptions last season.

Punter Adam Finley and kickoff specialist Troy Nienberg might be appreciated more now that they're gone. Finley averaged 43 yards per boot and Nienberg's kicks were returned for less than a 20-yard average. The big news on special teams could be a healthy Breaston, which should be good for at least one win.

Michigan opens at home against Northern Illinois, Notre Dame and Eastern Michigan, so it should be 3-0 when it visits Wisconsin and Michigan State. The Wolverines' only other trips are to Iowa and Northwestern in late October. They get Ohio State in Ann Arbor and don't play Purdue or Illinois.

Two defeats would be a disappointment for a team that is talented enough to win a national championship this season.

## IN PROFILE ... MICHAEL HART

*Small rushing package produced big numbers in record-setting freshman season for Wolverines*

He's only in his second year, but Michael Hart is already carrying some big expectations—and on a very small frame, no less.

Hart burst onto the national scene with Michigan last year, setting Wolverine freshman records in carries (282), rushing yards (1,455) and touchdowns (9). He was an easy selection for Big Ten Freshman of the Year and also was the only freshman to be named to the All-Big Ten first team.

All of this from someone who stands 5-9 and just above 190 pounds. After one game last year, Michigan center David Baas (who has since graduated) joked that he was closer to 4-foot-5. But size can be deceptive on the field. Just ask Purdue coach Joe Tiller.

"You look at him and think, 'He's not that physical, certainly not a Ron Dayne-type,'" Tiller says.

The comparison, or lack thereof, is somewhat ironic since Hart is the first true freshman to lead the Big Ten in rushing (121.2 yards a game) since Dayne's freshman year at Wisconsin in 1996.

And don't take Tiller's comments the wrong way—the Boilermakers' coach has a good amount of respect for Hart, especially after watching him run for 206 yards against Purdue in a 16-14 Michigan win at West Lafayette, Ind., last season.



It was one of three games in which Hart eclipsed 200 yards.

"His style is very physical," Tiller says. "What I've noticed about him is the defense tends to hit him and relax a little bit. But then he just accelerates. His play after contact is exceptional."

"He has really, really strong legs and, as a result, he's able to break off defenders and shed tackles. And he has good vision."

Hart will also get some relief in the backfield from Michigan's newest freshman sensation, running back Kevin Grady, who set countless state prep records last season at East Grand Rapids High and enrolled early at Ann Arbor in January.

Though he, too, is still an underclassman, Hart has taken it upon himself to put Grady under his wing, spending a lot of time with him this spring on and off the field.

Looking at the trio that also includes sophomore Max Martin, Michigan coach Lloyd Carr told a group of reporters after a spring practice that his backfield has the potential to be "as good as we've had in quite some time," adding he may play Hart and Grady together at times.

If Grady is as good as advertised and can pick things up as quickly as Hart did last season, Michigan's running game could cause nightmares all year for opposing Big Ten defensive coordinators.

—Matt McKenzie

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	MICHIGAN	OPP
SCORING	370	279
Points Per Game	30.8	23.2
FIRST DOWNS	250	204
Rushing	110	81
Passing	125	103
Penalty	15	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1843	1600
Yards gained rushing	2133	1997
Yards lost rushing	290	397
Rushing Attempts	481	440
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.6
Average Per Game	153.6	133.3
TDs Rushing	15	19
PASSING YARDAGE	2795	2435
Att-Cmp-Int	415-248-12	371-207-16
Average Per Pass	6.7	6.6
Average Per Catch	11.3	11.8
Average Per Game	232.9	202.9
TDs Passing	25	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	4638	4035
Total Plays	896	811
Average Per Play	5.2	5.0
Average Per Game	386.5	336.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	37-911	52-1021
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	31-413	37-485
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-322	12-252
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.6	19.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.3	13.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	20.1	21.0
FUMBLES-LOST	16-9	26-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	62-547	79-583
Average Per Game	45.6	48.6
PUNTS-YARDS	66-2757	75-3074
Average Per Punt	41.8	41.0
Net punt average	34.4	35.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:32	28:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	84/194	65/186
3rd-Down Pct	43%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/12	7/16
4th-Down Pct	50%	44%
SACKS BY-YARDS	21-146	29-193
MISC YARDS	5	16
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	45	34
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-24	13-19
PAT-ATTEMPTS	37-41	34-34
ATTENDANCE	666149	342147
Games/Avg Per Game	6/111025	5/68429
Neutral Site Games		1/93468

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Michigan	78	70	105	99	18	370
Opponent	66	64	55	84	10	279

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Chad Henne

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	132.56	399-240-12	60.2	2743	25	228.6

#### Clayton Richard

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	82.45	15-8-0	53.3	52	0	10.4

#### Spencer Brinton

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	0.00	1-0-0	0.0	0	0	0.0

### RUSHING

Ranking	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
Mike Hart	12	282	1455	5.2	9	121.2
Max Martin	8	32	132	4.1	1	16.5
David Underwood	4	29	129	4.4	2	32.2

### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Braylon Edwards	12	97	1330	13.7	15	110.8
Jason Avant	11	38	447	11.8	3	40.6
Steve Breaston	11	34	291	8.6	3	26.5

## DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Asst.	Total
Ernest Shazor	12	60	24	84
LaMarr Woodley	12	49	21	70
Lawrence Reid	12	47	23	70

### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Patrick Massey	12	5	38
LaMarr Woodley	12	4	40
Lawrence Reid	12	3	24

### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Markus Curry	3	51	17.0	0
Ryan Mundy	2	38	19.0	0
Ernest Shazor	2	92	46.0	1





CHARLES DAVIS, TE

# PURDUE BOILERMAKERS



WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.

**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 4-4 Big Ten (lost to Arizona State in the Sun Bowl, 27-23)  
**Stadium:** Ross-Ade Stadium **Turf:** Grass **Capacity:** 62,500  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.purduesports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Joe Tiller, 9th Year (62-37) **Career Record:** 101-67-1  
**Assistant coaches:** Jim Chaney (off. coord./TEs), Brock Spack (def. coord./LBs), Mark Hagen (asst. head coach/def. tackles/special teams), Lou Anarumo (def. backs), Blaine Bennett (QB), Bob DeBesse (WRs/recruiting coord.), Bill Legg (off. line), David Mitchell (RBs), Tony Samuel (def. ends)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	Akron	
S. 17	@ARIZONA	
S. 24	@MINNESOTA	
O. 1	Notre Dame	41-16
O. 8	Iowa	21-23
O. 15	Northwestern	10-13
O. 22	@WISCONSIN	17-20
O. 29	@PENN STATE	20-13
N. 5	Michigan State	
N. 12	Illinois	38-30
N. 19	@INDIANA	63-24

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20	
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/11	
<b>OFFENSE</b>	
QB	11 Brandon Kirsch (6-3, 208, Jr.)
RB	32 Jerod Void (6-2, 212, Sr.)
LT	65 Mike Otto (6-5, 292, Jr.)
LG	67 Uche Nwaneri (6-3, 313, Jr.)
C	56 Matt Turner (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RG	66 Jordan Grimes (6-3, 303, Sr.)
RT	74 Sean Sester (6-8, 282, r-Fr.)
TE	87 Charles Davis (6-6, 260, Sr.)
WR	2 Ray Williams (6-2, 193, Sr.)
WR	9 Dorian Bryant (5-10, 175, So.)
WR	89 Kyle Ingraham (6-9, 228, Jr.)
<b>DEFENSE</b>	
DE	49 Anthony Spencer (6-3, 263, Jr.)
DT	55 Brandon Villarreal (6-2, 289, Sr.)
DT	58 Brent Grover (6-3, 303, Sr.)
DE	10 Ray Edwards (6-6, 270, Jr.)
SLB	85 Cliff Avril (6-3, 231, So.)
MLB	30 George Hall (6-2, 250, Jr.)
WLB	59 Stanford Keglir (6-2, 227, So.)
CB	25 Paul Long (6-2, 193, So.)
CB	33 Brian Hickman (6-0, 178, Sr.)
FS	13 Torri Williams (6-2, 200, So.)
SS	31 Bernard Pollard (6-2, 226, Jr.)
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>	
PK	35 Ben Jones (6-1, 213, Sr.)
P	16 Dave Brytus (6-4, 227, So.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Selwyn Lymon, WR**  
U.S. Army All-American is 6-4 and runs a 4.4 40.
- Greg Orton, WR**  
Joins Lymon in Tiller's best set of incoming WRs.
- Eric Hedstrom, OL**  
Kept his word to Purdue when Illini changed staff.
- Jason Kacinko, OL**  
Pennsylvania said no to Wannstedt and Pitt.
- Derek Benson, ATH**  
Prep-school prospect has speed, leaping ability.

## With the entire defense back and no Ohio State or Michigan on the schedule, are Boilers primed to pull a big surprise?

No team in Big Ten history has had more returning starters and a more favorable schedule than the 2005 Boilermakers, our surprise choice to finish second in the Big Ten and make a serious run at their second Rose Bowl in the 21st century.

Some believe that level of success should have happened in 2004, when a 5-0 start was flushed away with a four-game skid. That left Purdue tied for fifth place and playing on Dec. 31 instead of New Year's Day.

The Boilermakers settled for a 7-5 record and a 4-4 league mark last season, with losses to co-champs Michigan and Iowa by two points, giveaways to Wisconsin and Northwestern by three and a Sun Bowl defeat to Arizona State by four.

That luck should change in Joe Tiller's ninth year in West Lafayette, Ind. If not, he'll wish he were back in Wyoming, fly fishing instead of calling fly patterns to the end zone.

Why the unbridled optimism? Purdue has 20 of 24 starters back—seven on offense, 11 on defense and both kickers. That's an amazing total for any team when top underclassmen can leave campus. For a squad with more seniors than AARP, it's a recipe for positive results.

The other essential ingredient in a big season is a manageable schedule. And with Michigan and Ohio State gone for two years and Iowa coming to town, the Boilers could be the nation's top surprise.

They'll need to replace consensus All-America wideout Taylor Stubblefield and Heisman-hyped quarterback Kyle Orton, a fourth-round pick of the Chicago Bears. They'll also need to replace the right side of their offensive line, guard Tyler Moore and tackle David Owen.

That can be done without a huge drop-off.

Junior Brandon Kirsch completed 61.7 percent of his passes in 2004, when he started against Iowa and Ohio State and went 47-for-77 for 490 yards and five touchdowns. Consistency is a concern, but Kirsch has excellent mobility and can't make a bigger mistake than Orton's season-turning fumble against Wisconsin.

Fifth-year running backs Jerod Void and Brandon Jones teamed to rush for 1,102 yards as juniors. They need to average more than

four yards per carry and combine for more than five TDs on the ground for Purdue to reach its potential, however.

No individual will match Stubblefield's stats—89 catches for 1,095 yards and 16 scores last season, an NCAA-record 316 grabs in his career. But massive junior Kyle Ingraham (6-9, 228) had 51 catches for 624 yards and seven TDs. He presents a mismatch problem for anyone this side of the NBA.

Senior wideout Ray Williams had 14 catches for 145 yards, while sophomore Dorian Bryant had 38 for 584 yards as a fourth receiver and could star in the slot. Fifth-year veteran Charles Davis (6-6, 260) had 34 catches for 416 yards as the best of a deep corps of tight ends.

Don't expect Kirsch & Co. to match last season's TD-to-interception ratio of 38-8. That shouldn't matter if this group averages anywhere close to 321.2 yards through the air again, 81.1 more than the league's No. 2 team.

The offensive line returns fifth-year center Matt Turner, junior left guard Uche Nwaneri and junior left tackle Mike Otto from a team that led the Big Ten with a 31.8-point average and was second with 446.5 yards per game.

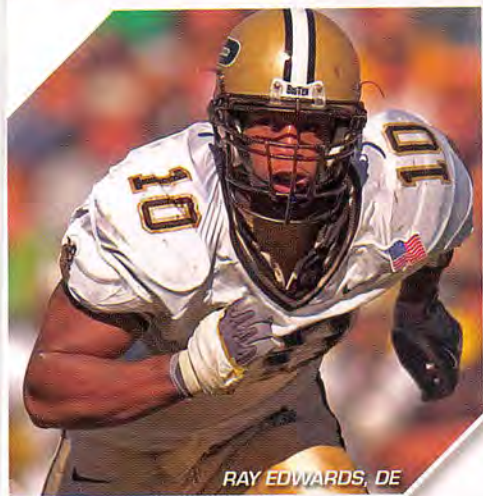
Sophomore Jordan Grimes takes over at right guard, while redshirt freshman Sean Sester (6-8, 282) gets the first shot at right tackle.

For most teams with a new starting quarterback, replacing two offensive linemen would be a major concern. Not so with the Boilers. One of the biggest reasons is the return of an entire defense that was one of the best in the Big Ten, plus several key backups. Purdue had the third-stringiest group in the conference last season, allowing 17.2 points per game. It's hard to see anything but improvement for a unit with another year of growth and experience.

Junior Bernard Pollard led the Boilers with 96 tackles from his strong safety spot. Junior George Hall was right behind with 92 stops at middle linebacker, and led the Boilers with two interceptions and 44 yards in returns.

The defensive line was solid, too, as Purdue ranked second in the Big Ten with a yield of 103.5 rushing yards per game, thanks largely to a league-best 35 sacks and 228 yards in losses. Don't be surprised if those numbers improve with everyone returning.





RAY EDWARDS, DE

Junior Ray Edwards and senior Ray Ninkovich tied for second in the league with eight sacks last season. But Ninkovich is listed as a backup behind Edwards at right end opposite junior Anthony Spencer, who had 7.5 sacks and three forced fumbles.

Fifth-year tackles Brandon Villarreal and Brent Grover have been there for four of the Boilers' eight straight bowl games in the Tiller era. Villarreal was third in the conference with 17.5 tackles for loss as a junior. Grover has started 34 games.

Sophomore Stanford Kregar is solid at weakside linebacker. And last year's strongside starter, Bobby Iwuchukwu, will have to hold off sophomore Cliff Avril to keep his job in his fifth season.

That depth is just as evident in the secondary. Fifth-year man Brian Hickman

and sophomore Paul Long are back at cornerback, while sophomore Torri Williams could drop last year's starting free safety, fifth-year player Kyle Smith, to second string.


If Purdue has a weakness, it's that its special teams don't stack up with the best in the conference. On the scale of potential problems, though, that deficiency is merely a mosquito bite.

Fifth-year placekicker Ben Jones fell to 55.6-percent field goal accuracy (10-for-18). Sophomore punter Dave Brytus averaged 40 yards per kick, ninth best in the Big Ten. And the punt returners ranked last in the league with a paltry 5.2 yards per runback.

That's a cause for concern, not a crisis or a controversy in western Indiana, where Ross-Ade Stadium has replaced Mackey Arena as the place to be for Boilers fans.

Purdue starts a week later than most teams and doesn't have a bye week after Sept. 10. With Akron, Notre Dame, Iowa, Northwestern, Michigan State and Illinois visiting, the home schedule isn't that scary. And with trips to Arizona, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Penn State and Indiana, a banner year seems likely.

If the Boilers roll through their schedule unbeaten or with only one loss, that feat would raise an interesting question: Can a team be a legitimate Big Ten champ without facing the Wolverines or Buckeyes? If there was ever an argument for a full 10-game, round-robin schedule, a Purdue title this fall could provide it.

The Boilers were 0-4 against ranked opponents last season and need to prove they can beat a quality team away from home to gain the respect they deserve. Their first opportunity could come in January at Pasadena. 

## IN PROFILE ...

## BRANDON KIRSCH

*Kirsch confident his abilities can fill Orton's shoes as new Boiler QB*

First off, Brandon Kirsch is no Kyle Orton, and the new Purdue quarterback is quick to tell you that. But that doesn't bother the fourth-year junior, who is ready to establish a name for himself in the Big Ten.

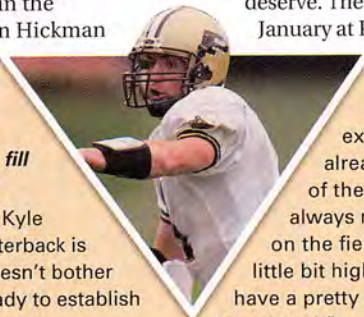
With the record-setting Orton off to enjoy the NFL life, the starting job falls on Kirsch, something he says he's been waiting on for quite some time.

"It's more of a welcoming in, so I'm not really nervous," Kirsch says. "But I definitely have to step it up [this season]."

The Boilermakers' offense is nothing new to Kirsch, who has six starts under his belt, dating all the way back to his freshman year. Last season, he came on to replace the injured Orton in two games and finished the 2004 campaign with seven touchdowns and three interceptions. He also started four games as a true freshman, but had to redshirt a year later after injuring his throwing shoulder.

"I think it's very valuable ... having to start in big [games]," he says. "So [this year] won't be a shock. I won't be nervous."

Purdue coach Joe Tiller says he enjoys the fact Kirsch isn't coming in as a wide-eyed freshman or a transfer, adding that having experience in the Purdue system will be to his advantage.



"We expect him to obviously execute the offense because he already has a good understanding of the system," Tiller says. "It's always more comforting to put someone on the field whose predictability is a little bit higher, meaning coach-wise, you have a pretty good feeling of how he's going to respond."

Tiller says Kirsch is comfortable enough with his own abilities not to worry about the pressure of filling Orton's big shoes.

"He's a guy who feels like he was ready to play, even the year he redshirted," Tiller says. "He's not a guy who I think is a timid person. I don't think he spends an ounce of time worrying about who he's replacing. The more confident a guy is, the less he thinks about who he's replacing or how he is going to be judged."

And while Orton relied on his strong arm, Kirsch can beat you in the air or on the ground. That was evident in Purdue's first spring scrimmage, when Kirsch led the team in rushing with 77 yards, adding a touchdown.

"People are going to have their opinions about everything comparing me and Kyle," Kirsch says. "But we're two different quarterbacks who play two different types of ways. I'm just going to go out there 100 percent and win games."

—Matt McKenzie

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	PURDUE	OPP
SCORING	381	206
Points Per Game	31.8	17.2
FIRST DOWNS	280	219
Rushing	89	73
Passing	170	129
Penalty	21	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	1504	1264
Yards gained rushing	1807	1658
Yards lost rushing	303	394
Rushing Attempts	424	405
Average Per Rush	3.5	3.1
Average Per Game	125.3	105.3
TDs Rushing	11	6
PASSING YARDAGE	3854	2879
Att-Comp-Int	486-297-8	434-241-8
Average Per Pass	7.9	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.0	11.9
Average Per Game	321.2	239.9
TDs Passing	38	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5358	4143
Total Plays	910	839
Average Per Play	5.9	4.9
Average Per Game	446.5	345.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-772	49-1024
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-167	21-158
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	8-101	8-93
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.9	20.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	5.2	7.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	12.6	11.6
FUMBLES-LOST	22-10	19-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	71-618	87-689
Average Per Game	51.5	57.4
PUNTS-YARDS	61-2345	77-3149
Average Per Punt	38.4	40.9
Net punt average	35.9	38.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:12	29:48
3RD-DOWN CONV.	92/189	66/192
3rd-Down Pct	49%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/12	4/13
4th-Down Pct	58%	31%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-228	31-207
MISC YARDS	4	114
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	23
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	10-18	16-28
PAT-ATTEMPTS	49-50	20-22
ATTENDANCE	381292	340219
Games/Avg Per Game	6/63549	5/68044
Neutral Site Games		1/51288

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Purdue	99	105	94	83	—	381
Opponents	53	37	43	73	—	206

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

## PASSING

## Kyle Orton

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	151.12	389-236-5	60.7	3090	31	280.9

## Brandon Kirsch

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	143.43	94-58-3	61.7	711	7	118.5

## RUSHING

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jerod Void	12	159	625	3.9	52.1
Brandon Jones	12	113	477	4.2	39.8
Kyle Orton	11	80	112	1.4	10.2

## RECEIVING

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
T. Stubblefield	12	89	1095	12.3	16	91.2
Kyle Ingraham	12	51	624	12.2	7	52.0
Dorien Bryant	12	38	584	15.4	3	48.7

## DEFENSE

## TACKLES

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Bernard Pollard	12	58	38	96
George Hall	12	53	39	92
Kyle Smith	12	46	30	76

## SACKS

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Ray Edwards	12	8.0	56
Rob Ninkovich	12	8.0	48
Anthony Spencer	12	7.5	55

## INTERCEPTIONS

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
George Hall	2	44	22.0	0
Paul Long	1	0	0.0	0
Bernard Pollard	1	19	19.0	0





TED GINN, WR



# OHIO STATE BUCKEYES



COLUMBUS, OHIO

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 4-4 Big Ten (beat Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl, 33-7)

Stadium: Ohio Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 101,568

Official athletic Web site: [www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com](http://www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Jim Tressel, 5th Year (40-11) Career Record: 175-68-2

Assistant coaches: Jim Bollman (off. coord./off. line), Joe Daniels (passing game coord./QBs), Darrell Hazell (asst. head coach/WRs), John Peterson (recruiting coord./TEs), Dick Tressel (RBs), Jim Heacock (def. line), Luke Fickell (LBs), Tim Beckman (CBs), Paul Haynes (def. backs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Miami (OH)	
S. 10	Texas	
S. 17	San Diego State	
S. 24	Iowa	7-33
O. 8	@PENN STATE	21-10
O. 15	Michigan State	32-19
O. 22	@INDIANA	30-7
O. 29	@MINNESOTA	
N. 5	Illinois	
N. 12	Northwestern	27-33 (OT)
N. 19	@MICHIGAN	37-21

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/23

### OFFENSE

QB	10 Troy Smith (6-1, 215, Jr.)
FB	43 Brandon Schnitker (6-2, 250, Jr.)
TB	25 Antonio Pittman (5-11, 190, So.)
LT	77 Rob Sims (6-4, 310, Sr.)
LG	72 T.J. Downing (6-5, 305, Jr.)
C	55 Nick Mangold (6-4, 390, Sr.)
RG	50 Doug Datish (6-5, 295, Jr.)
RT	74 Kirk Barton (6-6, 305, So.)
TE	80 Ryan Hamby (6-5, 250, Sr.)
FL	7 Ted Ginn (6-0, 170, So.)
SE	4 Santonio Holmes (5-11, 185, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	99 Jay Richardson (6-6, 270, Jr.)
DT	94 Marcus Green (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DT	90 Quinn Pitcock (6-3, 295, Jr.)
DE	57 Mike Kudla (6-3, 265, Sr.)
SLB	42 Bobby Carpenter (6-3, 255, Sr.)
MLB	51 Anthony Schlegel (6-2, 245, Sr.)
WLB	47 A.J. Hawk (6-1, 238, Sr.)
LCB	26 Ashton Youboty (6-1, 188, Jr.)
RCB	6 Tyler Everett (5-11, 196, Sr.)
FS	21 Nate Salley (6-3, 215, Sr.)
SS	9 Donte Whitner (5-11, 200, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	23 Josh Huston (6-1, 195, Sr.)
P	15 A.J. Trapasso (6-1, 220, r-Fr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Alex Boone, OT  
No. 3 tackle in nation in most prep rankings.
- Jamario O'Neal, WR/CB  
One service had him as country's No. 3 corner.
- Maurice Wells, RB  
Led Florida's prep rushers with 3,076 yards in '04.
- Doug Worthington, TE/DE  
Parade All-American and No. 2 player in N.Y.
- Jim Cordle, G  
Ohio's No. 2 blocker behind Boone; enrolled early.

## Buckeyes anxious to see how far two of college football's biggest stars—A.J. Hawk and Ted Ginn—can take them

The Buckeyes were never a contender in 2004, dropping their first three conference games and being relegated to the spoiler's role. But there was no sweeter way to finish 4-4 in the Big Ten than to blast Michigan by 16 points in Columbus and cost the Wolverines an outright title.

A 33-7 romp over Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl left no doubt which OSU ruled San Antonio. Instead, it left fans wondering if an 8-4 mark should have been better and if instant messiah Jim Tressel, just two years removed from a national championship, was human after all.

Yes, Tressel made it three wins in four tries against the hated Wolverines—one more than predecessor John Cooper managed in the only game that mattered to Scarlet-and-Gray zealots in 13 otherwise-successful seasons.

But an overtime upset at Northwestern, a whipping at home by Wisconsin, a lopsided loss at Iowa and a setback at Purdue were tough to stomach. A team that was ranked seventh in the nation on Sept. 27 didn't receive a single vote from pollsters six weeks later.

That will change this year, especially if the Buckeyes can beat Texas Sept. 10 in Ohio Stadium. A win there and another against visiting Iowa two weeks later could keep Tressel's team unbeaten until it travels to Michigan.

That wouldn't be the biggest shock in Big Ten history. Ohio State returns 18 starters, nine on each side of the ball. Best of all, it might have the Big Ten's No. 1 gamebreaker in flanker/kick returner Ted Ginn and the league's best defender in weakside linebacker A.J. Hawk.

Ginn is a blur with Heisman Trophy tools. He beat Michigan State single-handedly as a freshman last year, scoring on a reverse, a punt return and the game-winning reception. He also led the nation in punt returns with a 25.6-yard average and set a conference mark with four runbacks for TDs.

Hawk enters his final season with Butkus Award ability and intensity. He was second in the conference in 2004 with 141 tackles and seemed to know where the ball was headed before every snap. Hawk also made one of the year's best interceptions.

Ohio State's other stars include senior strong-side linebacker Bobby Carpenter and junior cornerback Ashton Youboty. Carpenter was

second on the team with 93 tackles and three interceptions. Youboty, the best cover corner in the league, had four picks and 18 pass breakups, as many as any player in the Big Ten.

Those efforts weren't enough to save a team that was eighth in total offense at just 320.8 yards per game, 11.2 yards fewer than it allowed. And subtracting Ginn's returns, the Buckeyes saw the end zone less than any Big Ten team but Penn State.

Ohio State did come alive after a quarterback change, winning four of its last five regular-season games after slippery Troy Smith replaced fellow junior Justin Zwick. Tressel's team finally remembered it was legal to score more than 27 points and put 30 or more on the board four times in the last six games.

Smith hit on 68 of 122 passes (55.7 percent) for 896 yards and eight scores, with three interceptions. He also ran for 339 yards, a 4.1 average. But he saved his best for last, completing 13 of 23 throws for 241 yards and rushing for 145 more against the Wolverines.

When Smith was suspended from the bowl game for accepting a booster's gift, Zwick stepped in and was 17-for-27 for 189 yards through the air. In seven starts, Zwick was 98-for-187 (52.4 percent) for 1,209 yards and six TDs. He also threw six interceptions.

Smith and Zwick could be pushed, if not passed eventually, by 6-5 redshirt freshman Todd Boeckman. The guess here is Smith will start. But whoever wins the job will throw to excellent targets.

Junior split end Santonio Holmes caught 55 passes (30 more than Ginn) for 769 yards and seven scores. Ginn, who didn't play much offense for the first two-thirds of last season, can change a game in an eye-blink. And backup wideouts Roy Hall and Anthony Gonzalez add size and explosiveness, respectively.

The offensive line returns four of five starters: senior center Nick Mangold, junior right guard Doug Datish, senior left tackle Rob Sims and sophomore right tackle Kirk Barton. Junior T.J. Downing should replace Mike Kne at left guard.

Two other blockers, fifth-year tight end Ryan Hamby and junior fullback Brandon Schnitker, are back to open holes for the tailback. That should be sophomore Antonio Pittman, who ran for 381 yards and a 5.1-yard average last year,





or redshirt freshman Eric Haw, a scout-team standout in 2004.

One or both will replace Lydell Ross, whose 475 yards on the ground was the lowest total for an Ohio State rushing leader since 1987. Ross ran for only four TDs last season, one less than past greats Pete Johnson and Keith Byars had in a game.

The Buckeyes return three starting defensive linemen, all three linebackers and three-fourths of their secondary. Hawk, Carpenter and Youboty got the headlines, but six other starters helped Ohio State allow only 18.2 points per game.

Fifth-year veteran Marcus Green and junior Quinn Pitcock are back at tackle, as is senior Mike Kudla at end. Anthony Schlegel will have to hold off fellow senior Mike D'Andrea at middle linebacker, while Nate Salley and Tyler Everett are set at free safety and right corner, respectively.

Juniors Jay Richardson and David Patterson will try to replace defensive end Simon Fraser. Junior Donte Whitner, who split time at safety last year, should take over at strong safety. And Luke Fickell and Jim Heacock will share the coordinator's role after Mark Snyder left to become the head coach at Marshall.

## IN PROFILE ...

### A.J. HAWK

**OSU's ball Hawk wants Buckeye defense to return to its days of dominance**

It really wasn't too difficult for A.J. Hawk to decide whether he was going to return to Ohio State for his senior season. All he had to do was simply take in his surroundings on the Columbus campus.

"I wanted to soak all this up," Hawk says about his final season at Ohio State. "I can't believe I'm already a senior, so I really want to enjoy it."

An All-America choice last year, Hawk had plenty of incentive to declare early for the NFL Draft, especially after finishing second in the Big Ten and fifth in the nation for tackles per game (11.8).

But with nine starters returning on defense and offense, Hawk says he believes there is an opportunity for Ohio State to capture its second national title in his career.

"There's a lot of talent in the people we have coming back," Hawk says. "There's a lot of potential to win a national championship. So that's the biggest reason why I came back. Of course, getting there [to the BCS title game] my freshman year gave me a little taste, but now I have a chance to be around some great players."

Another title would be a great way for Hawk to close his career at Ohio State, a team he followed and dreamed of playing for while growing up in Centerville, Ohio. But during his senior year at Centerville High, Hawk suffered an injury that kept him off the field for a majority of the season and caused him to lose some speed.

However, he was quickly pushing for playing time during his freshman season and became a full-time starter the next year, being selected to the All-Big Ten first team in the process.

"I came in with a great class, and when you come into a place as big as Ohio State, it's hard to make a name for yourself until you get here,"



Hawk says. "And until I got here, I never realized how important it was to be a part of this team. You grow up thinking, 'No way I can play for them, but then you are.'"

During his junior season, Hawk recorded 141 tackles (including a career-high 20 against Wisconsin), the most by a Buckeye since former OSU linebacker great Chris Spielman in 1986. He comes into his senior year as a candidate for some of the nation's top defensive awards, including the Butkus, Lombardi and Lott trophies.

Hawk says for Ohio State to be a national-title contender, the defense must get back to its dominating ways of a couple of years ago.

"I remember following [the team] growing up, and we're trying to be *that* Ohio State defense," he says. "The last couple of years we haven't had that. It's not really been any one thing; we've just had trouble getting off the field on third down. And that's tough to sustain all game."

"But with the seniors we've got coming back, and even with the young guys, it will allow us to be aggressive."

And after the season is over, the NFL awaits. But that doesn't mean scouts aren't already talking about Hawk, especially after what took place in March.

During Ohio State's Pro Day, where scouts come to campus to put mostly seniors through various workouts and drills, Hawk was selected as one of the few underclassmen to participate.

All of the talk about Hawk being a step slow quickly went out the window when he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds. He said he was happy about the impression left on scouts, but it didn't make him rethink the decision to stay.

"All that did was give me a little hope," he says. "I just wanted to make a name for myself. Of course, it made me feel better. Once you run a pretty good time, obviously I think that gives you more confidence heading into another year. I just need to make sure I run that well next year."


—Matt McKenzie

The biggest loss might be placekicker Mike Nugent, a second-round pick of the New York Jets and the first kicking specialist drafted. Nugent, the school's all-time leading scorer, had 24 field goals in 27 tries last season. Sixth-year senior Josh Huston, granted a medical-hardship year in April, has been waiting patiently with his kicking tee.

Punter Kyle Turano is also gone after the Buckeyes led the league in net punting at 39.2 yards per boot. Redshirt freshman A.J. Trapasso could inherit that job. Whoever is taking the long snaps from center, at least he won't have to kick to Ginn.

Ohio State's schedule is as friendly as Michigan's but not nearly as favorable as Purdue's. Miami (Ohio) comes to Columbus before Texas, San Diego State and Iowa visit. With four home games and a bye week, the Buckeyes won't wear white jerseys until Oct. 8 when they play at Penn State.

Michigan State, Illinois and Northwestern will be in Ohio Stadium, too. The other road tests are at Indiana, Minnesota and, of course, Michigan. If the

Buckeyes win in Ann Arbor again, construction of a new Tressel statue should begin by Thanksgiving at the latest. 

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OHIO STATE	OPP
SCORING	290	219
Points Per Game	24.2	18.2
FIRST DOWNS	186	226
Rushing	79	94
Passing	94	118
Penalty	13	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	1745	1565
Yards gained rushing	1989	1837
Yards lost rushing	244	272
Rushing Attempts	441	444
Average Per Rush	4.0	3.5
Average Per Game	145.4	130.4
TDs Rushing	11	10
PASSING YARDAGE	2105	2419
Att-Comp-Int	310-166-9	430-240-15
Average Per Pass	6.8	5.6
Average Per Catch	12.7	10.1
Average Per Game	175.4	201.6
TDs Passing	14	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	3850	3984
Total Plays	751	874
Average Per Play	5.1	4.6
Average Per Game	320.8	332.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-735	22-450
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	37-602	28-207
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	15-164	9-42
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.7	20.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	16.3	7.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.9	4.7
FUMBLES-LOST	22-14	13-4
PENALTIES-YARDS	71-537	72-548
Average Per Game	44.8	45.7
PUNTS-YARDS	67-2836	80-3455
Average Per Punt	42.3	43.2
Net punt average	39.2	35.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:34	30:26
3RD-DOWN CONV.	63/171	76/198
3rd-Down Pct	37%	38%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	2/5	6/17
4th-Down Pct	40%	35%
SACKS BY-YARDS	24-153	23-135
MISC YARDS	5	47
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	31	26
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	24-27	13-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	30-30	24-25
ATTENDANCE	629257	311188
Games/Avg Per Game	6/104876	5/62238
Neutral Site Games		1/65265

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Ohio State	95	76	51	68	0	290
Opponents	41	71	37	64	6	219

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Justin Zwick

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	110.89	187-98-6	52.4	1209	6	172.7

#### Troy Smith

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	134.15	122-68-3	55.7	896	8	112.0

### RUSHING

	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Lydell Ross	9	117	475	4.1	52.8
Antonio Pittman	11	72	381	5.3	34.6
Troy Smith	8	82	339	4.1	42.4

### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Santonio Holmes	12	55	769	14.0	7	64.1
Ted Ginn Jr.	12	25	359	14.4	2	29.9
Roy Hall	11	17	230	13.5	1	20.9

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Ass.	Total
A.J. Hawk	12	62	79	141
Bobby Carpenter	12	46	47	93
Anthony Schlegel	12	46	38	84

### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Mike Kudla	11	4.0	22
Anthony Schlegel	12	3.5	21
Simon Fraser	12	2.5	15

### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ashton Youboty	4	83	20.8	0
Bobby Carpenter	3	13	4.3	0
Nate Salley	2	0	0.0	0





DREW TATE, QB



# IOWA HAWKEYES



IOWA CITY, IOWA

2004 Record: 10-2 overall, 7-1 Big Ten (beat LSU in the Capital One Bowl, 30-25)  
Stadium: Kinnick Stadium Turf: Grass Capacity: 70,397  
Official athletic Web site: www.hawkeyesports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

4

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Kirk Ferentz, 7th Year (42-31) Career Record: 54-52  
Assistant coaches: Ron Bernard Aiken (def. line), Lester Erb (WRs/special teams), Carl Jackson (RBs), Eric Johnson (recruiting coord./TEs), Reese Morgan (off. line), Ken O'Keefe (off. coord./QB), Norm Parker (def. coord./LBs), Phil Parker (def. backs), Darrell Wilson (OLBs/special teams)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Ball State	
S. 10	@IOWA STATE	17-10
S. 17	Northern Iowa	
S. 24	@OHIO STATE	33-7
O. 1	Illinois	23-13
O. 8	@PURDUE	23-21
O. 15	Indiana	
O. 22	Michigan	17-30
N. 5	@NORTHWESTERN	
N. 12	@WISCONSIN	30-7
N. 19	Minnesota	29-27

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/17

### OFFENSE

QB	5 Drew Tate (6-0, 185, Jr.)
FB	35 Tom Busch (5-11, 231, So.)
RB	33 Marques Simmons (5-8, 202, Sr.)
LT	75 Ben Gates (6-6, 286, Sr.)
LG	74 David Walker (6-2, 295, Sr.)
C	61 Brian Ferentz (6-3, 282, Sr.)
RG	54 Mike Elgin (6-4, 277, Jr.)
RT	76 Mike Jones (6-5, 299, Jr.)
TE	30 Ryan Majerus (6-3, 237, Jr.)
SE	88 Clinton Solomon (6-3, 196, Sr.)
WR	11 Ed Hinkel (6-1, 190, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	92 Ken Iwebema (6-4, 246, So.)
DT	53 Matt Kroul (6-3, 256, r-Fr.)
DT	72 George Eshareturi (6-3, 284, So.)
DE	99 Bryan Mattison (6-3, 262, So.)
OLB	27 Edmond Miles (6-1, 222, Jr.)
MLB	52 Abdul Hodge (6-2, 234, Sr.)
WLB	18 Chad Greenway (6-4, 244, Sr.)
LCB	26 Jovon Johnson (5-9, 177, Sr.)
RCB	20 Antwan Allen (5-10, 180, Sr.)
FS	13 Charles Godfrey (6-1, 202, So.)
SS	25 Marcus Paschal (6-0, 199, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	1 Kyle Schlicher (5-9, 179, Jr.)
P	6 Andy Fenstermaker (6-3, 221, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Corey Robertson, RB**  
Two-time Texas all-stater is also a great hurdler.
- Dace Richardson, OL**  
Huge frame; U.S. Army All-America choice.
- Dan Doehring, OL**  
Earned 10 letters in football, basketball and track.
- Jake Christensen, QB**  
Like Richardson and Doehring, part of Illinois raid.
- Trey Stross, WR/P**  
All-American with size to catch the ball or kick it.

## Ferentz's brilliance will be tested this year, as Hawkeyes must replace 11 starters

**W**hen four teams are as even as those at the top of the Big Ten this season, the tough part isn't picking a champion: It's deciding which one is likely to be fourth.

If that has to be the Hawkeyes, they might find they're the best fourth-place team in the nation.

The most difficult part is making that pick with the belief Kirk Ferentz is the best coach in college football. What he has done in six seasons in Iowa City is nothing short of miraculous—a description reserved in Big Ten circles for Iowa's turnaround under Hayden Fry from 1981-90 and Northwestern's three titles from 1995-2000.

After building from one win to three to seven, Ferentz led the Hawkeyes to 11 victories in 2002 and 10 triumphs in each of the past two years. Those three straight seasons with double-digit wins are one more than Michigan State has had in its history.

Iowa's 20-4 Big Ten record the last three years ties Michigan for the best record in the conference. Ferentz's teams defeated the Wolverines in two of those seasons. And the four-loss total? Seven teams had four or more Big Ten losses in 2004 alone.

The Hawkeyes' only hiccups last year were a bizarre no-show at Arizona State and a double-payback loss at Michigan. Those setbacks were all but forgotten when Iowa walloped Wisconsin 30-7 for a share of the conference crown, then stunned LSU 30-25 in the Capital One Bowl on a last-gasp pass with no time showing.

That eight-game winning streak was more remarkable since four of the top five ball-carriers were injured, with three out for the season by Oct. 2. The Hawkeyes' only rushing yards the rest of the way came from a walk-on and a transfer. Somehow, Ferentz's staff and players adjusted.

Iowa enters this season with the league's top quarterback and two of the nation's best tacklers. So why the fourth-place pick? The Hawkeyes return just 13 starters, fewer than any of the other contenders. They also have a tougher schedule, with visits to Ohio State and Purdue plus a home game against Michigan.

Still, Iowa has won 18 straight games in Kinnick Stadium for the first time. If it comes down to a matchup of last year's 7-1 co-champs, the

Hawkeyes will know they had a better overall record last season and their seniors have won more games than the Wolverines.

Junior quarterback Drew Tate won more than his share en route to All-Big Ten recognition. Tate hit 233 of 375 passes, 62.5 percent, for 2,786 yards and 20 TDs. He was second in the conference in pass efficiency despite a league-high 14 interceptions. On a team with no other quarterback who has thrown a pass, Tate is clearly the MVP.

His 56-yard strike to Warren Holloway in the final seconds Jan. 1 was a magic moment in Iowa history. And Tate should have two better targets this year in senior wide receivers Ed Hinkel and Clinton Solomon. Hinkel had 63 catches for 744 yards and seven scores last season, including a diving snare in the end zone at Michigan. Solomon had 58 grabs for 905 yards and six TDs.

Tate's bodyguards include four returnees. Junior right guard Mike Elgin (6-4, 277) is an All-Big Ten candidate. Senior center Brian Ferentz (6-3, 282), Kirk's son, made an inspiring return from multiple knee surgeries. Junior Mike Jones (6-5, 299) is back at right tackle after starting 10 games at left guard. Senior Ben Gates (6-6, 286) will battle junior-college transfer Marshal Yanda (6-4, 315) for the left tackle job. Last year's starter there, Lee Gray, is out for the season after undergoing knee surgery in the offseason.

Pete McMahon's departure and Jones' position-switch leave a guard spot for senior David Walker (6-2, 295). And with tight end Tony Jackson gone, juniors Ryan Majerus (6-3, 237) and Scott Chandler (6-7, 242) will battle for minutes. Majerus played in every game last season, while Chandler was Iowa's No. 4 receiver as a wideout, grabbing 24 passes for 324 yards and three scores.

The blocking and ball-carrying must improve for the Hawkeyes to vault from last in the league in rushing to the middle of the pack. With just 871 yards on the ground and a 2.0 average per carry, Iowa had less than a third of the outputs of Minnesota and Michigan State.

If the running game is your idea of entertaining football, Kinnick Stadium was the wrong place to be in 2004. Opponents had almost as much trouble rushing as the Hawkeyes and were held to 92.5 yards per game, 2.8 per carry, by the league's stingiest run stoppers.

Iowa's five returnees on defense include the nation's best pair of linebackers—seniors Abdul Hodge in the middle and Chad Greenway at the





weaksides spot. Hodge was third in the conference last year with 116 tackles, including 15 against LSU, and has 295 career stops. Greenway had 113 hits, three interceptions and a blocked kick.

Also back are three-fourths of a secondary that helped the Hawkeyes rank third in the Big Ten in pass defense and first with 17 interceptions. Senior Antwan Allen and junior Jovon Johnson are experienced corners who shared the league lead with four pickoffs. And senior Marcus Paschal started every game at strong safety.

But Iowa will need to replace six starters on coordinator Norm Parker's defense, including super-quick end Matt Roth, a second-round pick of the Miami Dolphins, and free safety Sean Considine, who had five blocked kicks. Opposite end Derreck Robinson, tackles Jonathan Babineaux and Tyler Luebke and outside linebacker George Lewis are gone, too.

The defensive line might be the youngest in the nation, with sophomores Kenny Iwebema (6-4, 246) and Bryan Mattison (6-3, 262) the new ends and redshirt freshman Matt Kroul (6-3, 256) and sophomore George Eshareturi (6-3, 284) at tackle. Injuries could hurt the Hawkeyes here as much as last year's epidemic did at running back.

#### IN PROFILE ...

#### CHAD GREENWAY AND ABDUL HODGE

*Good friends make up dynamic linebacking duo for Hawkeyes*

The two players who make up one of the best linebacker tandems in college football couldn't come from more divergent paths in life, yet Iowa's Chad Greenway and Abdul Hodge have formed a close friendship in their time on the Hawkeyes' football team, one that could see both pals become All-America selections when the season is over.

Greenway (6-4, 244 pounds) and Hodge (6-2, 234) ranked first and second, respectively, in total tackles for the Hawkeyes last season. The duo also combined for six sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss, helping the Iowa defense lead the Big Ten in turnovers per game (1.08) and rushing defense (92.5 yards a game).

Greenway found his way to Iowa City via Mount Vernon High in South Dakota, where he played both quarterback and safety in a nine-man football league. Hodge, on the other hand, was a SuperPrep All-American at Boyd Anderson High in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Despite their surroundings, both had one thing in common—tremendous athleticism.

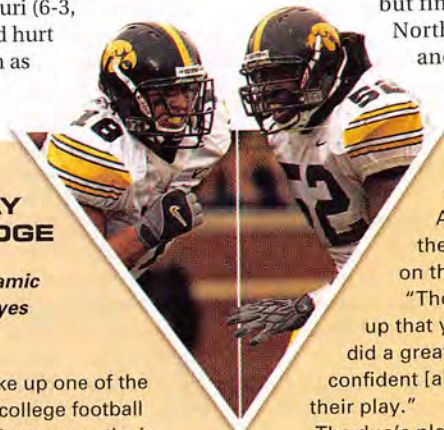
"Abdul was a little quicker and more instinctive because of where he played," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz says. "With Chad, it was a little different of a story. He wasn't as polished, but was very productive and we really liked his energy."

Both Greenway and Hodge decided to redshirt their freshman year rather than play on special teams, choosing to focus on improving at their chosen position. It paid off, as both became

Junior Edmond Miles or senior Mike Follett should join Hodge and Greenway at line-backer and see plenty of plays come that way. Sophomore Charles Godfrey and junior Miguel Merrick were the starting safeties in the spring, with Paschal sidelined until the fall.

Iowa's special teams have been outstanding in the Fry and Ferentz years. Junior placekicker Kyle Schlicher did about as well as anyone could succeeding all-time leading scorer Nate Kaeding. Schlicher tied a school record with 21 field goals in 26 tries, including five at Minnesota. Senior John Gallery or junior Andy Fenstermaker will replace David Bradley as the punter. Hinkel has been solid on punt returns.

The Hawkeyes should be 3-0 with visits from Ball State and Northern Iowa sandwiching a game at Iowa State. What happens the next five weeks, with tests at Ohio State and Purdue and a rematch with Michigan, should tell whether the conference finish is first, second, third or fourth. Iowa doesn't face Michigan State or Penn State, but finishes with trips to Northwestern and Wisconsin and a Senior Day game with Minnesota—a possible Pasadena send-off.



starters in 2003 and made All-Big Ten, with Hodge on the first team and Greenway on the second.

"Those two really stepped it up that year," Ferentz says. "They did a great job for us, and I felt very confident [about the defense] from their play."

The duo's play reached another level last season, as both enjoyed another year of 100-plus tackles (which put them in the top 25 all-time in school history) and were chosen as all-conference first-team selections.

Ferentz says it's unique to have two athletes as gifted as Hodge and Greenway playing the same position.

"It's a luxury, above anything else," Ferentz says.

When asked if he's ever coached such a dominant duo, Ferentz thought back, then put them in some pretty good company.

"When I was a [graduate] assistant at Pitt in 1980, we had Hugh Green and Ricky Jackson playing on the outside," Ferentz says. "Those two were quite a tandem. Abdul and Chad play in a similar position [both are inside linebackers], in a 3-4 scheme, and that's the parallel I'd draw 25 years later."

Hawkeye fans were relieved in the offseason when Hodge and Greenway decided to stay for their final season and complete their degree in communications.

"I really don't think [entering the draft] ever entered their minds," Ferentz says. "They feel invested with the team and feel like they have an obligation to be strong leaders for us. Their future is very bright."

—Matt McKenzie

#### 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	IOWA	OPP
SCORING	292	211
Points Per Game	24.3	17.6
FIRST DOWNS	199	202
Rushing	63	66
Passing	119	114
Penalty	17	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	871	1110
Yards gained rushing	1327	1410
Yards lost rushing	456	300
Rushing Attempts	428	392
Average Per Rush	2.0	2.8
Average Per Game	72.6	92.5
TDs Rushing	10	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2881	2416
Att-Cmp-Int	385-239-14	424-234-17
Average Per Pass	7.5	5.7
Average Per Catch	12.1	10.3
Average Per Game	240.1	201.3
TDs Passing	20	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	3752	3526
Total Plays	813	816
Average Per Play	4.6	4.3
Average Per Game	312.7	293.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	29-532	44-859
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	38-521	33-261
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-203	14-209
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.3	19.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.7	7.9
INT RETURN AVERAGE	11.9	14.9
FUMBLES-LOST	17-5	22-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	91-675	59-485
Average Per Game	56.2	40.4
PUNTS-YARDS	66-2633	67-2761
Average Per Punt	39.9	41.2
Net punt average	35.9	33.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:32	28:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/188	67/191
3rd-Down Pct	38%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/11	13/23
4th-Down Pct	36%	57%
SACKS BY-YARDS	30-172	40-290
MISC YARDS	39	5
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	33	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	21-26	12-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	29-32	21-23
ATTENDANCE	422382	403560
Games/Avg Per Game	6/70397	5/80712
Neutral Site Games		1/70229

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Iowa	89	63	69	71	—	292
Opponents	25	79	41	66	—	211

#### 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

##### PASSING

Drew Tate	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
GP	12	134.67	375-233-14	62.1	2786	20	232.2
Eric McCollom	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
GP	1	153.85	8-5-0	62.5	87	0	87.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Sam Brownlee	9	94	227	2.4	0 25.2
Jermelle Lewis	4	57	200	3.5	1 50.0
M. Simmons	6	51	194	3.8	3 32.3

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ed Hinkel	12	63	744	11.8	7	62.0
Clinton Solomon	12	58	905	15.6	6	75.4
Warren Holloway	12	29	283	9.8	1	23.6

##### DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Abdul Hodge	12	79	37	116
Chad Greenway	12	71	42	113
Marcus Paschal	12	38	20	58

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Jonathan Babineaux	12	11	63
Matt Roth	12	8	55
Chad Greenway	12	3	6
Abdul Hodge	12	3	13

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Antwan Allen	4	54	13.5	0
Jovon Johnson	4	13	3.2	0
Sean Considine	3	62	20.7	0





DREW STANTON, QB



# MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

EAST LANSING, MICH.

2004 Record: 5-7 overall, 4-4 Big Ten  
Stadium: Spartan Stadium  
Official athletic Web site: [www.msuspartans.com](http://www.msuspartans.com)

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 72,027

PRESEASON RANK:

5

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: John L. Smith, 3rd Year (13-12) Career Record: 123-72  
Assistant coaches: Dave Baldwin (off. coord./TEs), Mike Cox (LBs), Jim McElwain (asst. head coach/WRs), Doug Nussmeier (QB's), Chris Smeland (def. coord./safeties), Jeff Stoutland (off. line)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULTS
S. 3	Kent State	
S. 10	Hawaii	38-41
S. 17	@NOTRE DAME	24-31
S. 24	@ILLINOIS	38-25
O. 1	Michigan	37-45 (OT)
O. 15	@OHIO STATE	19-32
O. 22	Northwestern	
O. 29	Indiana	30-20
N. 5	@PURDUE	
N. 12	@MINNESOTA	51-17
N. 19	Penn State	13-37

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/21

### OFFENSE

QB	5	Drew Stanton (6-3, 228, Jr.)
RB	20	Jason Teague (5-9, 199, Sr.)
LT	72	Stefon Wheeler (6-5, 320, Sr.)
LG	74	Kyle Cook (6-3, 293, Jr.)
C	51	Chris Morris (6-4, 298, Sr.)
RG	71	Gordon Niebylski (6-3, 314, Sr.)
RT	66	Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 305, So.)
TE	89	Ryan Woods (6-4, 259, Sr.)
WR	6	Matt Trannon (6-6, 225, Sr.)
WR	3	Kyle Brown (6-1, 207, Sr.)
WR	32	Jerramy Scott (5-10, 185, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	40	Michael Bazemore (6-3, 263, Sr.)
DT	96	Domata Peko (6-2, 310, Sr.)
DT	99	Brandon McKinney (6-3, 315, Sr.)
DE	92	Clifton Ryan (6-2, 294, Jr.)
BAN	36	Eric Smith (6-1, 193, Sr.)
MLB	43	Kaleb Thornhill (6-1, 237, So.)
WLB	41	David Herron (6-1, 250, Jr.)
LCB	12	Ashton Watson (5-11, 186, Sr.)
RCB	31	Jaren Hayes (5-9, 180, Sr.)
FS	29	Greg Cooper (5-11, 187, Jr.)
SS	38	Cole Corey (5-10, 194, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	11	John Goss (6-3, 214, r-Jr.)
P	8	Brandon Fields (6-6, 235, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Javon Ringer, RB**  
Electrifying runner; 6,184 yards and 81 TDs in HS.
- Andrew Hawken, LB**  
Big, fast, smart; did everything but take tickets.
- Ryan Allison, WR**  
Better size, speed and stats than Kirk Gibson.
- Diamond Williams, CB**  
Juco could help right away, especially on returns.
- Bobby Jones, DL**  
Juco flashed pass-rush potential in spring ball.

## Spartans look to end bowl drought behind high-powered offense

Just when it seemed the Spartans had made progress, going from 4-8 under Bobby Williams to 8-5 in John L. Smith's first season, injuries and inconsistency brought another winter with no bowl game.

Granted, Michigan State had moments of greatness, mauling Minnesota 51-17, leading Michigan 27-10 with less than 10 minutes left in Ann Arbor and waxing fourth-ranked Wisconsin 49-14. It also had maddening giveaways to the Wolverines in triple overtime, to Ohio State and to Hawaii.

The final mark was 5-7, 4-4 in Big Ten play. Don't be surprised if the Spartans use that experience this year and post their best record since a 10-2 run under Nick Saban in 1999.

Eight starters are back from an offense that produced 29.6 points and a league-high 460 yards per game. But only six regulars return from a disappointing defense. That rebuilding job could be a blessing if some younger players develop.

The most important returnee is junior quarterback Drew Stanton, who showed he's as good as any leader in the conference when healthy. Stanton completed 141 of 220 throws (64.1 percent) for 1,601 yards with eight TDs and six interceptions. He also rushed 96 times for 687 yards, a 7.2-yard average and five scores.

Despite the loss of blazer DeAndra Cobb's 728 rushing yards, including 7.6 per carry, Michigan State could have one of the Big Ten's top ground games. Senior Jason Teague (5-9, 199 pounds) gets as much as possible from his physical tools. He netted 688 yards, 4.6 per pop, in a team-high 150 carries. Sophomore Jehuu Caulcrick (6-0, 243) added 619 yards, getting 5.5 per try with five TDs.

The Spartans' other strength could be a deep receiving corps led by senior flanker Kyle Brown, one of the team's fastest players and a star in spring drills. Brown's 23 catches for 302 yards trailed the totals of junior slot receiver Jerramy Scott, senior split end Matt Trannon and senior slot Agim Shabaj. Scott had 39 grabs for 444 yards, Trannon 36 for 405 and Shabaj 29 for 308.

Senior Chris Morris (6-4, 298) is one of the nation's top centers. The left side of the line returns with senior tackle Stefon Wheeler (6-5, 320) and junior guard Kyle Cook (6-3, 293).

Senior Gordon Niebylski (6-3, 314) takes over at right guard. Sophomore Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 305) lines up at right tackle. And senior Ryan Woods (6-4, 259) and sophomore Kellen Davis (6-6, 244) are the new tight ends.

Placekicker Dave Rayner, the school's leading career scorer, will be replaced by strong-legged junior John Goss (6-3, 214). Junior punter Brandon Fields (6-6, 235) could improve on his 47.9-yard average, the third best in Big Ten history. But the return game won't be as good without Cobb's contributions on kickoffs.

The defense has more questions than most game shows. Junior end Clifton Ryan (6-2, 294), senior tackle Brandon McKinney (6-3, 315), junior linebacker David Herron and senior bandit Eric Smith have shown flashes. But senior tackle Domata Peko (6-2, 310), senior end Michael Bazemore (6-3, 263) and sophomore middle linebacker Kaleb Thornhill will have to deliver.

The secondary is shaky, with senior cornerback Jaren Hayes being the lone returning starter. Senior corner Ashton Watson, junior free safety Greg Cooper and sophomore strong safety Cole Corey could determine where Michigan State finishes.

The Spartans travel to Notre Dame, Ohio State, Purdue and Minnesota, but they get Michigan in East Lansing. The question is whether they'll play in warmer weather the week after Christmas. **Big Ten**



CHRIS MORRIS, C



# MINNESOTA

## GOLDEN GOPHERS



MINNEAPOLIS

**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 3-5 Big Ten (beat Alabama in the Music City Bowl, 20-16)

**Stadium:** Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome

**Turf:** Artificial

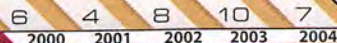
**Capacity:** 64,172

**Official athletic Web site:** www.gophersports.com



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:



6

**Head coach:** Glen Mason, 9th Year (51-45) **Career Record:** 110-109-1

**Assistant coaches:** Moe Ankney (asst. head coach/OLBs), Mitch Browning (off. coord./Ts/TEs), David Lockwood (def. coord./ILBs), Tony Petersen (passing game coord./QB), Gordon Shaw (OGs/centers), Vic Adamle (RBs), Luke Tressel (WRs), Carey Bailey (DL), Kerry Cooks (def. secondary)



LAURENCE MARONEY, RB

## Gopher offense should move the sticks behind All-America running back Laurence Mauroney

**Y**es, the Golden Gophers are still eligible to play in the Rose Bowl. It's just that most of their living alumni weren't born the last time the Maroon-and-Gold visited Pasadena.

Last year was another classic Minnesota tease. Glen Mason's team was 5-0 and No. 13 in both polls when it fell by three points at Michigan. The bottom fell out the following week in a 34-point pounding at Michigan State. After a shutout of Illinois, the Gophers lost at Indiana and Wisconsin and at home to Iowa before a pro-Hawkeye crowd. A win over Alabama in the Music City Bowl made the record 7-5, 3-5 in Big Ten play, and only suggested what might have been.

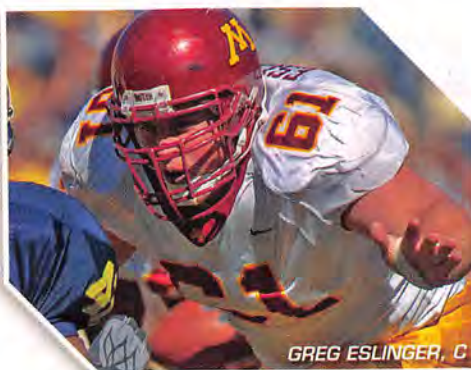
Minnesota returns 15 starters, eight on offense and seven on defense. But having to face all four of the league favorites—Purdue and Ohio State in Minneapolis, Michigan in Ann Arbor and Iowa in Iowa City—isn't the schedule Mason would have devised.

The offense should be excellent with junior running back Laurence Maroney, junior quarterback Bryan Cupito, senior wide receiver Jared Ellerson and sophomore wideout Ernie Wheelwright, plus All-Big Ten center Greg Eslinger and guard Mark Setterstrom, both seniors.

Maroney rushed for 1,348 yards, 6.2 per carry, and 12 TDs in his second season with 1,000-plus yards. If he stays in the Twin Cities for four years, he could shatter virtually every school record for runners, especially since Dallas Cowboys draftee Marion Barber III won't be splitting time and netting 1,269 yards anymore.

Cupito completed 123 passes in 237 attempts, just 47.1 percent, for 2,097 yards and 14 scores, with seven interceptions. The Gophers rush more than twice as often as they pass, so Cupito doesn't have to be Daunte Culpepper. Still, a little more accuracy would help.

With Ellerson, Wheelwright (6-5, 210) and junior tight end Mark Spaeth (6-6, 270), Cupito should have three solid targets. Ellerson had 37 catches for 51 yards and three TDs, Wheelwright 30 grabs for 654 yards and seven scores and Spaeth 24 receptions for 298 yards and four TDs. Don't be shocked if they team for 125 catches, 2,000 yards and 20 scores.



GREG ESLINGER, C

Eslinger (6-3, 285) and Setterstrom (6-3, 295) are as good as any interior-line combination in the country. Junior right tackle Joe Ainslie (6-7, 300) also returns, while senior right guard Mike Nicholson (6-5, 285) and sophomore left tackle Steve Shidell (6-5, 285) seem ready to start.

The defense isn't as strong as a Minnesota offense that averaged 30.1 points and 438.3 yards per game. It doesn't have to be for the Gophers to be the year's surprise team. But it can't rank last against the pass, as it did in allowing 266 yards per game with since-departed All-Big Ten cornerback Ukee Dozier.

Senior strongside linebacker Kyle McKenzie led the Gophers with 79 tackles last year. Senior Terrance Campbell moved from weakside linebacker to strong safety before the bowl game and wound up with 70 stops. And senior John Pawlowski had 70 hits at free safety.

Senior tackles Mark Losli (6-6, 290) and Anthony Montgomery (6-5, 305) have first-string experience. So do junior drop linebacker Mario Reese and junior cornerback Trumaine Banks, part of an endangered pass defense.

Junior end Eric Clark (6-4, 265), sophomore weakside linebacker John Shevlin, sophomore cornerback Jamal Harris and junior strong safety Brandon Owens are the new starters on defense. If Minnesota starts to play a full season instead of letting success slip away, anything is possible in Minneapolis—even an on-campus stadium in the near future. **U.S.**

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@TULSA	
S. 10	Colorado State	34-16
S. 17	Florida Atlantic	
S. 24	Purdue	
O. 1	@PENN STATE	16-7
O. 8	@MICHIGAN	24-27
O. 15	Wisconsin	14-38
O. 29	Ohio State	
N. 5	@INDIANA	21-30
N. 12	Michigan State	17-51
N. 19	@IOWA	27-29

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/13

#### OFFENSE

QB	3	Bryan Cupito (6-1, 195, Jr.)
FB	18	Justin Valentine (6-2, 215, So.)
TB	22	Laurence Maroney (5-11, 205, Jr.)
LT	64	Steve Shidell (6-5, 285, So.)
LG	68	Mark Setterstrom (6-3, 295, Sr.)
C	61	Greg Eslinger (6-3, 285, Sr.)
RG	60	Mike Nicholson (6-5, 285, Sr.)
RT	78	Joe Ainslie (6-7, 300, Jr.)
TE	89	Matt Spaeth (6-6, 270, Jr.)
WR	83	Jared Ellerson (6-1, 200, Jr.)
WR	82	Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 210, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	99	Keith Lipka (6-3, 260, Sr.)
NT	95	Anthony Montgomery (6-5, 305, Sr.)
DT	97	Mark Losli (6-6, 290, Sr.)
DE	90	Eric Clark (6-4, 265, Jr.)
SLB	52	Kyle McKenzie (6-1, 235, Sr.)
DLB	48	Mario Reese (6-3, 230, Jr.)
WLB	46	John Shevlin (6-1, 220, Sr.)
CB	15	Jamal Harris (6-0, 180, So.)
CB	4	Trumaine Banks (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	34	John Pawlowski (5-11, 200, Sr.)
SS	20	Brandon Owens (6-2, 210, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	31	Jason Giannini (5-10, 180, Fr.)
P	41	Justin Kucek (6-0, 180, Fr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Alex Daniels, LB**  
Named 11th-best athlete in nation by Rivals.com.
- Dominic Jones, DB**  
Twenty-seven sacks, 10 TD kick returns as prep.
- Jay Thomas, RB**  
All-purpose back; ran a 21.49 in 200 meters.
- Ryan Ruckdashel, OL**  
Had 7 pancake blocks per game as a senior tackle.
- Marcel Jones, QB**  
Pro-style passer was also an all-league wrestler.

BIG TEN





MICHAEL ROBINSON, QB



**PENN STATE**

**PENN STATE**

NITTANY LIONS

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Big Ten  
Stadium: Beaver Stadium  
Official athletic Web site: [www.gopsusports.com](http://www.gopsusports.com)

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 107,501

PRESEASON RANK:

7

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004  
5 5 9 3 4

Head coach: Joe Paterno, 40th Year (343-116-3) Career Record: 343-116-3

Assistant coaches: Dick Anderson (off. line), Tom Bradley (def. coord.), Galen Hall (off. coord./RBs), Larry Johnson (def. line) Bill Kenney (off. tackles/TEs), Mike McQueary (WRs asst.), Brian Norwood (def. backs), Jay Paterno (QBs), Ron Vanderlinden (LBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	South Florida	
S. 10	Cincinnati	
S. 17	Central Michigan	
S. 24	@NORTHWESTERN	7-14
O. 1	Minnesota	7-16
O. 8	Ohio State	10-21
O. 15	@MICHIGAN	
O. 22	@ILLINOIS	
O. 29	Purdue	13-20
N. 5	Wisconsin	3-16
N. 19	@MICHIGAN STATE	37-13

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/16

### OFFENSE

QB	12	Michael Robinson (6-2, 217, Sr.)
FB	34	Matt Hahn (6-0, 219, So.)
TB	26	Tony Hunt (6-2, 219, Jr.)
LT	67	Levi Brown (6-5, 324, Jr.)
LG	59	Charles Rush (6-2, 304, Sr.)
C	77	E.Z. Smith (6-1, 283, Sr.)
RG	74	Tyler Reed (6-4, 307, Sr.)
RT	68	John Wilson (6-6, 317, Sr.)
TE	81	Isaac Smolko (6-5, 257, Sr.)
WR	80	Mark Rubin (6-3, 213, So.)
WR	2	Derrick Williams (6-0, 191, Fr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	91	Tamba Hali (6-3, 267, Sr.)
DT	13	Jay Alford (6-3, 285, Sr.)
DT	41	Scott Paxson (6-5, 284, Sr.)
DE	55	Matthew Rice (6-4, 256, Sr.)
OLB	40	Dan Connor (6-3, 220, So.)
MLB	20	Tim Shaw (6-1, 233, Jr.)
OLB	31	Paul Posluszny (6-2, 229, Jr.)
CB	21	Alan Zemaitis (6-2, 201, Sr.)
CB	1	Anwar Phillips (6-1, 182, Sr.)
FS	29	Paul Cronin (6-2, 216, Sr.)

HERO 10 Calvin Lowry (6-0, 200, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Patrick Humes (5-8, 150, r-Fr.)
P	36	Jeremy Kapinos (6-1, 222, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Justin King, CB  
One of no-brainer prospects in U.S. will help now.
- Derrick Williams, WR  
Superior talent will provide needed big plays.
- Lyde Sargent, TB  
Childhood friend of King's came east from Calif.
- Jerome Hayes, LB  
Another King pal and Signing Day coup from N.J.
- Francis Claude, TE  
Big target from British Columbia enrolled early.

## Say it ain't so, Joe: Eleven years (and counting) without a Rose Bowl

To a lot of young players, 40 years is a long time to live, much less to be a Big Ten head coach. To Nittany Lions living legend Joe Paterno, four decades in charge and 55 seasons overall in Happy Valley just means he knows something his players don't: how it feels to win.

The second-winningest coach in Division I-A history knew his team would have to play well to survive last year's gauntlet—four straight games against ranked opponents before a trip to suddenly unranked Ohio State. Instead, the Lions lost them all in a six-game skid and a 4-7 season.

It's no consolation that Penn State was the only program in the country to hold every opponent to 21 points or less. And so what if it held Iowa to a season-low six points? Paterno's players managed only two safeties, lost by two and wound up ninth in the conference at 2-6.

For a coach with 343 victories (and that's more games than some schools have won), a Rose Bowl drought was never supposed to reach 11 years. But that's where the Lions are, with no end in sight, even with as many as 19 starters returning.

The offense should center around two of the nation's most versatile talents, senior quarterback/receiver Michael Robinson and junior tailback Tony Hunt. Both could have starred in the days of two-way football.

Robinson, the only player in the country to rank second on his team in passing and receiving, must be more accurate to hold off sophomore quarterback Anthony Morelli and others. If Robinson will never match the numbers of Zack Mills, he'll present a greater running threat. Just don't expect him to catch 33 balls again.

Hunt was surprisingly good for an anemic offense that averaged just 17.7 points and 310.7 yards per game. He led Penn State in rushing with 777 yards, a 4.6 average and seven TDs, and was tops in receiving with 39 catches for 334 yards—151 less than Robinson's total.

The offensive line could be better with seniors Charles Rush (6-2, 304 pounds) and (if cleared to play) Tyler Reed (6-4, 307) at guard, plus junior Levi Brown (6-5, 324) and senior John Wilson (6-6, 317) at tackle. Senior tight end Isaac Smolko

(6-5, 257) and sophomore wide receiver Mark Rubin (6-3, 213) are also back.

The defense doesn't need an overhaul—just overall progress—to rank with the best in the conference. Junior Paul Posluszny was sixth in the Big Ten last year with 104 tackles. Senior hero back Calvin Lowry and senior cornerback Alan Zemaitis shared the conference lead with four interceptions.

Senior ends Matthew Rice (6-4, 256) and Tamba Hali (6-3, 267), junior tackle Jay Alford (6-3, 285) and senior tackle Scott Paxson (6-5, 284) are one of the league's best foursomes. Sophomore linebacker Dan Connor had an excellent debut with 85 stops. And senior Anwar Phillips has experience at corner, though standout freshman Justin King will play somewhere.

Penn State has seven home dates and doesn't face Iowa. The early schedule includes visits from South Florida, Cincinnati and Central Michigan before Big Ten games at Northwestern and against Minnesota. The following two weeks against Ohio State and at Michigan should tell the story. Penn State needs to win one of those games or beat Purdue in State College two weeks later to be a surprise contender.

Paterno won't be around forever. Sometimes it just seems that way. But he should end with pride and at least one more bowl win. There's no better time to start.



TAMBA HALI, DE



# NORTHWESTERN

## WILDCATS

EVANSTON, ILL.

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 5-3 Big Ten

Stadium: Ryan Field

Official athletic Web site: www.nusports.com

Turf: Grass

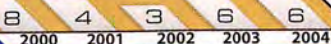
Capacity: 47,130



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

8



Head coach: Randy Walker, 7th Year (30-41) Career Record: 89-76-5

Assistant coaches: Jerry Brown (asst. head coach/DBs), Greg Colby (def. coord.), Mike Dunbar (off. coord.), Pat Fitzgerald (LBs), Jack Glowik (TEs/H-backs), Kevin Johns (RBs), Garrick McGee (WRs), James Patton (off. line), Eric Washington (def. line)



BRETT BASANEZ, QB

## No-respect Wildcats appear set to get back on the winning track

For years the big question was whether the Wildcats would win a Big Ten football championship in anyone's lifetime.

Apparently, no one bothered to ask Gary Barnett or Randy Walker, who led Northwestern to three league titles in the last 10 years, second only to Michigan.

That's the good news.

The bad is a five-year lag since the last shared conference crown, meaning no current Wildcat player was part of that second wave of glory. Worse yet, a third wave is hard to see in the distance.

Northwestern returns 13 of 24 starters—five on offense, six on defense and both kickers. If quantity is a problem, quality shouldn't be. A program that always seems to lack depth can be a factor in the league race, if not quite a contender, provided the doctors and trainers stay bored.

Last year's Wildcats were 6-6 and a respectable 5-3 in the conference, including a stop-the-presses win over then-No. 7 Ohio State. But a shot at back-to-back bowl bids ended the way it began—in utter frustration. Northwestern stayed home because of a 48-45 double-overtime giveaway at TCU the Saturday before Labor Day and a 49-41 hand-off to Hawaii two days after Thanksgiving.

This time, if Walker's team averages anything close to 43 points in its opener and finale, it will be 2-0. Yes, the Wildcats lost some standouts. Defensive tackle Luis Castillo was the 28th pick in the first round of the draft by the San Diego Chargers. Versatile running back Noah Herron and offensive tackle Trai Essex were also major contributors.

The key returnee is fifth-year quarterback Brett Basanez, second in the league in total offense with 258 yards per game, average passing yards with 236.5 and completions per game with 20.6. He connected on 247 of 460 throws (53.7 percent) for 2,838 yards and 12 scores, with nine interceptions.

Basanez should be better after 28 straight starts and with five of last year's top seven receivers back. Senior wideouts Mark Philmore and Jonathan Fields combined for 102 catches in 2004. Philmore had 54 grabs for 633 yards and two TDs, while Fields caught 48 balls for 560 yards and four scores.

Senior right tackle Zach Strief (6-7, 335) and junior center Trevor Rees (6-2, 285) are the anchors of a rebuilt offensive line. But with three

new starters there and a new tight end, it won't be easy to replace Herron's 1,381 rushing yards, even for a coach who has produced five 1,000-yard runners in the last six years.

Senior Terrell Jordan has gained 568 yards, 5.1 per carry, as a backup the past two years, but will be pushed by sophomores Nathan Shanks and Brandon Roberson, redshirt freshmen Gerard Hamlett and Akeem Hunter and true freshmen Omar Conteh and Tyrell Sutton.

Northwestern's best player and one of the 10 best linebackers in college football is senior Tim McGarigle, third in the nation last year with 12.6 tackles per game. He had a career-high 21 stops in a win over Purdue and could contend for the Butkus Award if his team wins enough.

Also back on defense are senior end Loren Howard (6-4, 285), senior tackle Barry Cofield (6-4, 305), junior linebacker Nick Roach, fifth-year cornerback and Big Ten kickoff-return champ Jeff Backes and junior strong safety Bryan Heinz, who moves over from free safety.

The Wildcats aren't the cellar-dwellers some still believe. A 9-7 conference mark the past two years should convince folks of that. But then, some still think they'll never win a title. **B-12**



TERRELL JORDAN, TB

CHUCK RYDLEWSKI

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Ohio	
S. 10	Northern Illinois	
S. 17	@ARIZONA STATE	21-30
S. 24	Penn State	14-7
O. 8	Wisconsin	12-24
O. 15	@PURDUE	13-10
O. 22	@MICHIGAN STATE	
O. 29	Michigan	20-42
N. 5	Iowa	
N. 12	@OHIO STATE	33-27 (OT)
N. 19	@ILLINOIS	28-21 (OT)

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13

Lettermen returning/lost: 37/17

#### OFFENSE

QB	14 Brett Basanez (6-2, 210, Sr.)
FB	49 Frayne Abernathy (6-3, 245, So.)
TB	26 Terrell Jordan (5-10, 200, Sr.)
LT	74 Dylan Thiry (6-8, 300, So.)
LG	71 Joe Tripodi (6-3, 300, Jr.)
C	50 Trevor Rees (6-2, 285, Jr.)
RG	56 Ryan Keenan (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RT	63 Zach Strief (6-7, 335, Sr.)
TE	44 Erryn Cobb (6-1, 255, Jr.)
WR	3 Shaun Herbert (6-1, 200, Jr.)
WR	9 Mark Philmore (5-10, 185, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	66 Loren Howard (6-4, 285, Sr.)
DT	67 Barry Cofield (6-4, 305, Sr.)
DT	53 Trevor Schultz (6-2, 285, Jr.)
DE	72 David Ngene (6-3, 270, So.)
SLB	43 Adam Kadela (6-2, 235, Jr.)
MLB	41 Tim McGarigle (6-1, 235, Sr.)
WLB	38 Nick Roach (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LCB	20 Marquice Cole (5-9, 185, Jr.)
RCB	28 Jeff Backes (5-9, 190, Sr.)
FS	27 Reggie McPherson (6-1, 190, So.)
SS	21 Bryan Heinz (6-1, 205, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	93 Joel Howells (6-4, 225, Jr.)
P	90 Ryan Pederson (6-3, 215, Jr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Tyrell Sutton, RB**  
Incredible career in OH; packs punch for 5-9, 190.
- Prince Kwateng, LB**  
Can he help make Wildcats kings of the Big Ten?
- Mike Kafka, QB**  
All the tools to become the successor to Basanez.
- Tyler Compton, OL**  
Humble, Texas, giant has lots of reasons to boast
- Omar Conteh, RB**  
Another talented Texan with speed and power.

BIG TEN





JOHN STOCO, QB

# W WISCONSIN BADGERS

MADISON, WIS.

**2004 Record:** 9-3 overall, 6-2 Big Ten (lost to Georgia in the Outback Bowl, 24-21)  
**Stadium:** Camp Randall Stadium **Turf:** Artificial **Capacity:** 79,500  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.uwbadgers.com

PRESEASON RANK:

9

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Barry Alvarez, 16th Year (108-70-4) **Career Record:** 108-70-4  
**Assistant coaches:** Bret Bielema (def. coord./LBs), Paul Chryst (co-off. coord./TEs), Jeff Horton (QB), Jim Hueber (off. line), Ron Lee (def. backs), Henry Mason (WRs), Brian Murphy (special teams/OLBs), John Palermo (asst. head coach/def. line), Brian White (co-off. coord./RBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Bowling Green	
S. 17	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S. 24	Michigan	
O. 1	Indiana	
O. 8	@NORTHWESTERN	24-12
O. 15	@MINNESOTA	38-14
O. 22	Purdue	20-17
O. 29	@ILLINOIS	24-7
N. 5	@PENN STATE	16-3
N. 12	Iowa	7-30
N. 25	@HAWAII	

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 39/25

### OFFENSE

QB	7	John Stocco (6-2, 197, Jr.)
FB	45	Matt Bernstein (6-2, 266, Sr.)
TB	2	Brian Calhoun (5-10, 194, Jr.)
LT	72	Joe Thomas (6-8, 303, Jr.)
LG	76	Matt Lawrence (6-5, 288, Sr.)
C	53	Donovan Raiola (6-3, 294, Sr.)
RG	52	Jason Palermo (6-3, 307, Sr.)
RT	63	Kraig Urbik (6-6, 317, Fr.)
TE	84	Jason Pociask (6-3, 258, Sr.)
WR	9	Jonathan Orr (6-3, 190, Sr.)
WR	8	Brandon White (6-3, 190, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	95	Joe Monty (6-2, 252, Jr.)
DT	99	Justin Ostrowski (6-5, 304, So.)
DT	96	Nick Hayden (6-5, 302, So.)
DE	5	Jamal Cooper (6-4, 217, So.)
SLB	41	Mark Zalewski (6-2, 228, Jr.)
MLB	43	Andy Crooks (6-3, 242, So.)
WLB	14	Dontez Sanders (6-1, 208, Sr.)
LCB	21	Levon Rowan (6-1, 191, Sr.)
RCB	6	Brett Bell (6-0, 200, Sr.)
FS	22	Roderick Rogers (6-2, 181, Jr.)
SS	36	Johnny White (6-2, 217, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Taylor Melhaff (5-11, 179, So.)
P	94	Ken DeBauche (6-2, 219, So.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Travis Beckham, LB**  
No. 1 player in Wisconsin and sixth LB in country.
- Elijah Hodge, LB**  
Speed rusher from Fla.; grew up in Virgin Islands.
- Andy Kemp, OL**  
Guard/tackle arrived in time for spring ball.
- Matthew Shaughnessy, DE**  
Tall athlete will add weight, a la Erasmus James.
- Shane Carter, DB**  
Brother of former Ohio St./NFL great Cris Carter.

**Graduation, NFL Draft hit Badgers hard, so there's lots of work to do in Madison**

No team rose faster or fell harder than coach Barry Alvarez's bunch in 2004. With three weeks left in the regular season, the Badgers had climbed from 21st to fourth in both polls and were searching for ways to crack the BCS title game. Instead, they were cracked in the head at Michigan State and never recovered.

After holding five straight opponents to seven points or less and allowing no more than 17 in a 9-0 start, Wisconsin's defense was featured in national magazines. But after a 49-14 spanking by the Spartans, a 30-7 no-show at Iowa and a 24-21 loss to Georgia in the Outback Bowl, the Badgers weren't even the Big Ten leaders in points allowed.

What they were was 9-3 overall and third in the league at 6-2. And with just 11 starters back, the fewest in the conference, Wisconsin has more work to do than it ever did last year, when a fourth Rose Bowl invitation in Alvarez's 15 seasons seemed imminent, then impossible to fathom.

For the Badgers to visit Pasadena or any other January site this season, Alvarez might have to do his best coaching job since a mind-boggling march to the top in 1993. He has had some other great ones, too, at a school that never used to beat the Ohio States of the world.

That bid to be the year's big surprise must begin with rapid improvement from junior quarterback John Stocco, who was eighth in the conference with 166.6 air yards per game and ninth in passing efficiency. He completed 169 of 321 throws, 52.6 percent, for 1,999 yards and nine TDs, with seven interceptions.

On the offense, senior Donovan Raiola (6-3, 294) is solid at center. Junior Joe Thomas (6-8, 303) is tough to shed or circle at left tackle. And senior wideout Brandon White (6-3, 190) led Wisconsin with 42 catches for 517 yards, decent numbers in Alvarez's system.

Senior fullback Matt Bernstein (6-2, 266) should team with junior tailbacks Booker Stanley and Brian Calhoun, a Colorado transfer, and try to replace the 973 rushing yards and 11 TDs from departing Anthony Davis.

The Badgers contributed seven players to the NFL Draft, behind only Oklahoma's 11 and Florida State's nine. Defensive end Erasmus James went 18th in the first round to Minnesota. Cornerback Scott Starks also was selected on the first day, going 87th overall to Jacksonville in Round Three. But Wisconsin's biggest loss might be the graduation of undrafted free safety/punt returner Jim Leonhard.

The four returning starters on defense are senior weakside linebacker Dontez Sanders, junior strongside 'backer Mark Zalewski, sophomore middle linebacker Andy Crooks and senior cornerback Brett Bell. Sanders led the team with 76 tackles, two more than Leonhard. Bell and Leonhard each had three interceptions.

The Badgers will be one of the few teams in the nation to play 12 games this regular season. That means they'll have to win seven, not the usual six, to be bowl-eligible. After visits from Bowling Green and Western Michigan and a trip to North Carolina, a 3-0 record would help. But with Michigan, Purdue and Iowa bound for Camp Randall Stadium and Ohio State off the schedule, Wisconsin could fool us all.

If Alvarez doesn't get the Badgers into their 11th bowl in 13 seasons, he can always have a heart-to-heart with his director of athletics. All he'll need is a mirror. But if Wisconsin stumbles as much as the depth chart suggests, it won't be a permanent plunge—any more than a 9-0 start meant smiles forever last year. **By Tim**



BRANDON WHITE, WR

STEVE BEYER



ILLINOIS  
FIGHTING ILLINI

ILLINOIS

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 Big Ten

Official athletic Web site: www.fightingillini.com

There's a new Ron running the show in Champaign. Now, if the Fighting Illini can stop opponents' runners and passers occasionally, a school that ruled as late as 2001 might win more than one league game.

After three seasons as head coach at Florida, Ron Zook returns to the Midwest. His Gator teams were 23-14 with three non-BCS bowl bids—good enough in a lot of places but bad enough to get fired in Gainesville.

Zook, a 24-year college and pro assistant, replaces Ron Turner, whose final Illinois team went 3-8 and tied for 10th in the Big Ten at 7-7. With 16 starters returning—even each on offense and defense and two kickers—reaching .500 is the first objective.

Junior Tim Brasic should get the first shot at replacing quarterback on Beutjer. But the Illini's strengths are at running back, where juniors E.B. Halsey and Pierre Thomas are as versatile as any rushing tandem in the league. Thomas led the team last year with 893 yards, a 5.9 average and eight TDs.

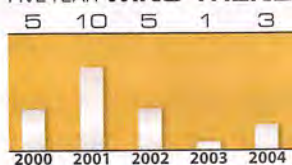
The top three receivers return in senior wideout Kendrick Jones, senior fullback Jason Davis and junior wideout Franklin Payne. Jones had 47 catches for 687 yards and five scores, while Davis and Payne combined for 66 grabs, mostly for short yardage.

Junior Matt Maddox (6-4, 290 pounds) should move from right guard to center. Sophomore Martin O'Donnell (6-5, 290) will have to hold off sophomore Ben Amundsen (6-6, 305) at left guard. And junior J.J. Simmons (6-6, 290) appears solid at left tackle.

An inadequate defense returns sophomore Xavier Fulton (6-5, 270) at end, sophomore Chris Norwell (6-7, 270) and senior Ryan Matha (6-3, 300) at tackle, sophomore J. Leman at linebacker, junior Alan Ball at cornerback and sophomore Justin Harrison and senior Morris Virgil at safety.

Senior punter Steve Weatherford is a valuable weapon, averaging 45.4 yards per kick. He shouldn't be too busy in September with Rutgers and San Jose State on the schedule. That'll change with trips to Iowa, Ohio State and Purdue—three of at least a half-dozen losses. **OUT**

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Rutgers	
S. 10	San Jose State	
S. 17	@CALIFORNIA	
S. 24	Michigan State	25-38
O. 1	@IOWA	13-23
O. 8	@INDIANA	26-22
O. 22	Penn State	
O. 29	Wisconsin	7-24
N. 5	@OHIO STATE	
N. 12	@PURDUE	30-38
N. 19	Northwestern	21-28 (OT)

Head coach: Ron Zook,  
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 23-14

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 69,249

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18

## OFFENSE

QB	15 Tim Brasic (6-2, 185, Jr.)
FB	34 Jason Davis (5-11, 220, Sr.)
RB	30 Pierre Thomas (5-11, 190, Jr.)
LT	57 J.J. Simmons (6-6, 290, Jr.)
LG	69 Ben Amundsen (6-6, 305, So.)
C	67 Matt Maddox (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RG	79 James Ryan (6-6, 310, So.)
RT	68 Jim LaBonte (6-7, 300, So.)
TE	88 Melvin Bryant (6-5, 235, Jr.)
WR	84 Kendrick Jones (6-2, 180, Sr.)
WR	80 Franklin Payne (6-0, 185, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	98 Xavier Fulton (6-5, 270, So.)
DT	97 Ryan Matha (6-3, 300, Sr.)
DT	96 Chris Norwell (6-7, 270, So.)
DE	91 Derek Walker (6-5, 245, r-Fr.)
LB	51 Anthony Thornhill (6-1, 215, So.)
LB	48 Remond Willis (6-0, 220, r-Fr.)
LB	47 J. Leman (6-3, 220, So.)
CB	18 Alan Ball (6-1, 175, Jr.)
CB	24 Charles Bailey (6-1, 195, So.)
FS	20 Morris Virgil (5-10, 195, Sr.)
SS	32 Justin Harrison (5-11, 205, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	13 Jason Reda (6-0, 185, So.)
P	37 Steve Weatherford (6-4, 205, Sr.)

INDIANA  
HOOSIERS

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 Big Ten

Official athletic Web site: www.iuhoosiers.com

If November losses to Illinois and Penn State didn't do Gerry DiNardo in, a 63-24 loss at Purdue was more than the Hoosiers could stomach between disappointing basketball seasons.

Thus, DiNardo was dismissed, and Miami of Ohio coach Terry Hooppner was hired. After 19 seasons at Miami, including a 48-24, six-year stint as head coach, Hooppner will see that he had better players in the Mid-American Conference at several positions than he does now in Bloomington.

Indiana returns 13 starters—five on offense, seven on defense and a punter—from a 3-8 team that shared last place with Illinois, won just once after Sept. 11 and surrendered 114 points to Kentucky and Purdue.

All five offensive linemen are back: junior Chris Mangiero (6-1, 310 pounds) at center, seniors Adam Hines (6-2, 315) and Brandon Hatcher (6-2, 305) at guard, and senior Issac Sowell (6-3, 330) and junior Justin Frye (6-5, 310) at tackle. After that, it's time for nametags.

The skill positions should feature several 2004 backups. Sophomore Blake Powers replaces Matt LoVecchio at quarterback. Powers was nine-for-22 passing last year with two interceptions. And senior Chris Taylor takes over for BenJarvus Green-Ellis at tailback. Taylor rushed for 329 yards and three scores last year.

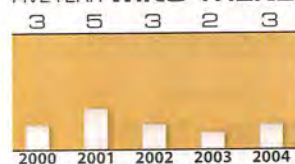
The defense returns senior Victor Adeyanju (6-4, 270) and junior Kenny Kendal (6-3, 260) at end, senior Kyle Killion and junior Jake Powers at linebacker, with sophomore Tracy Porter, senior Buster Larkins and junior Will Meyers back at safety.

Porter had 115 yards and a touchdown on three interception returns as a freshman. But the Hoosiers were the only team in the league to allow more than 30 points (31.2) and 450 yards (453.2) per contest last season.

Indiana's best weapon could be junior kick returner Lance Bennett (5-6, 167), who averaged 30 yards per runback. Unfortunately, Bennett had too many chances.

The Hoosiers could be 3-0 after a game at Central Michigan and visits from Nicholls State and Kentucky. The last six opponents—Iowa, Ohio State, Michigan State, Minnesota, Michigan and Purdue—should make Hooppner understand, if he doesn't already, how big his challenge is. **OUT**

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 2	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	41-10
S. 10	Nicholls State	
S. 17	Kentucky	32-51
O. 1	@WISCONSIN	
O. 8	Illinois	22-26
O. 15	@IOWA	
O. 22	Ohio State	7-30
O. 29	@MICHIGAN STATE	20-30
N. 5	Minnesota	30-21
N. 12	@MICHIGAN	14-35
N. 19	Purdue	24-63

Head coach: Terry Hooppner,  
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 48-24

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 52,354

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 58/24

## OFFENSE

QB	14 Blake Powers (6-4, 228, So.)
RB	30 Chris Taylor (6-0, 220, Sr.)
LT	76 Isaac Sowell (6-3, 330, Sr.)
LG	75 Adam Hines (6-2, 315, Sr.)
C	74 Chris Mangiero (6-1, 310, Jr.)
RG	73 Brandon Hatcher (6-2, 305, Sr.)
RT	60 Justin Frye (6-5, 310, Jr.)
TE	89 Chris Rudanovic (6-4, 265, Jr.)
WR	1 Jahkeem Gilmore (6-0, 214, Sr.)
WR	81 Rhett Kleinschmidt (6-2, 198, Sr.)
WR	2 Marcus Thigpen (5-9, 175, r-Fr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	94 Victor Adeyanju (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	55 Russ Richardson (6-0, 260, Sr.)
DT	77 Kenny Love Jr. (6-2, 290, r-Fr.)
DE	92 Kenny Kendal (6-3, 260, Jr.)
LB	43 Kyle Killion (6-0, 230, Sr.)
LB	46 Jake Powers (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LB	34 John Pannozzo (5-11, 230, Jr.)
LCB	36 Tracy Porter (5-11, 178, So.)
RCB	8 Buster Larkins (5-11, 185, Sr.)
FS	39 Will Meyers (5-11, 205, Jr.)
SS	4 Will Lumpkin (5-10, 205, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	44 Austin Starr (6-2, 188, r-Fr.)
P	44 Tyson Beattie (6-2, 206, Jr.)



## NORTH



## SOUTH

### Games to watch:

- >> **Oklahoma at Texas**, Oct. 8  
The South Division, Big 12 and Rose Bowl could be on the line.
- >> **Texas Tech at Nebraska**, Oct. 8  
The Cornhuskers' defense wears a 70-point scar. But can the Blackshirts stop this offense?
- >> **Texas at Texas A&M**, Nov. 25  
The Aggies could spoil the Longhorns' postseason plans.

official conference website:  
[www.big12sports.com](http://www.big12sports.com)

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

### Offense

QB	Vince Young, Jr., Texas
RB	Adrian Peterson, So., Oklahoma
RB	Taurean Henderson, Sr., T. Tech
OL	Jonathan Scott, Sr., Texas
OL	Jeromey Clary, Sr., Kansas St.
OL	Tony Palmer, Sr., Missouri
OL	Davin Joseph, Sr., Oklahoma
OL	Aaron Brant, Jr., Iowa State
WR	Todd Blythe, So., Iowa State
WR	Jarrett Hicks, Jr., Texas Tech
TE	David Thomas, Sr., Texas
PK	Mason Crosby, Jr., Colorado

### Defense

OL	Nick Leaders, Sr., Iowa State
OL	Rodrique Wright, Sr., Texas
OL	Dusty Dvoracek, Sr., Oklahoma
OL	Larry Birdine, Jr., Oklahoma
LB	Nick Reld, Sr., Kansas
LB	Jordan Dizon, So., Colorado
LB	Aaron Harris, Sr., Texas
DB	Charles Gordon, Jr., Kansas
DB	Michael Huff, Sr., Texas
DB	Daniel Bullocks, Sr., Nebraska
DB	Jason Simpson, Sr., Missouri
P	Daniel Sepulveda, Jr., Baylor

## North and South lose a ton of talent to the NFL, but national-title contender Texas stays forever Young

By Blair Kerkhoff  
The Kansas City Star

The Big 12 likes to think its South Division has been the toughest collection of hombres over the last few years, but that claim has gotten trashed in each of the past two postseasons.

Oklahoma has fallen in the last two BCS title games, and no outcome in the Bob Stoops era was more embarrassing than the 55-19 pasting by Southern California in the Orange Bowl last season.

With 10 starters taken in the NFL Draft, it's something of a rebuilding season at Oklahoma, winners of four of the last five division titles. But the Sooners don't play for second place, and future pros have been waiting behind the current ones.

Still, Texas is the South and conference favorite. The Longhorns lost top talent in running back Cedric Benson and linebacker Derrick Johnson, but they're returning the league's best quarterback in Vince Young.

Texas A&M and Texas Tech should continue to knock on the door, and it would be no shock if either won the division.

Who wins the North? Any team can.

Predicting the division is folly, just as it was last year. Halfway through the league race, Colorado and Iowa State were tied for last. They wound up tied for first, with the Buffs getting to the title game by virtue of the regular-season victory.

The Buffs return the most starters, the Cyclones return their top skill players, Nebraska might have found a quarterback this spring, Kansas State has come too far to regress, Missouri has the division's top quarterback and Kansas could easily have represented the North last season with a break or two.

There, we just made a case for all six.

Here's a key: The inside track belongs to any North team that defeats a South team besides Baylor. It didn't happen last year, as the North went a collective 0-16, including the Buffs' loss to Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game.

### Rating the recruits

- 1. Nebraska**  
Assistant coach John Blake is a recruiting star.
- 2. Oklahoma**  
Could be Stoops' best class ever, heavy on defensive stars.
- 3. Texas A&M**  
Big catch is TE Martellus Bennett.
- 4. Texas**  
Low on numbers (15) and Longhorns lost some big names on Signing Day.
- 5. Kansas State**  
Return to upper echelon begins with juco-heavy class.
- 6. Texas Tech**  
All but two in class of 21 from Texas.
- 7. Missouri**  
Post-Brad Smith-era signee in Chase Daniel.
- 8. Oklahoma State**  
Mammoth DE Ryan McBean is the best of Bundy's first effort.
- 9. Kansas**  
Kerry Meier, brother of K-State DB Dylan Meier, signs with Jayhawks.
- 10. Iowa State**  
Florida schools can't get all the Floridians. Cyclones signed five.
- 11. Baylor**  
The long road to respectability continues with Guy Morris's best class.
- 12. Colorado**  
Gary Barnett says he used restrictions to his advantage. We'll see.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Jarrett Hicks, Texas Tech
Best hands	Todd Blythe, WR, Iowa State
Best passing QB	Dylan Meier, Kansas State
Best running QB	Vince Young, Texas
Most elusive RB	Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma
Best instincts	Charles Gordon, CB, Kansas
Best athlete	Martellus Bennett, TE, Texas A&M
Best under pressure	Daniel Sepulveda, P, Baylor
Top NFL prospect	Rodrique Wright, DT, Texas
Top impact freshman	DeMarcus Granger, DT, Oklahoma
Hardest hitter	Dusty Dvoracek, DE, Oklahoma

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Gary Barnett, Colorado
Best recruiter	Bob Stoops, Oklahoma
Coach on the spot	Gary Pinkel, Missouri

### Don't be surprised if ...

Texas ends a five-year losing streak to Oklahoma. The Longhorns have the established quarterback—and it's about time, isn't it?

### One man's opinion

"I don't call it [a] trend. I saw last season as circumstantial. It's like erosion on the beach. If you wait long enough it's going to change. It's going to be different."

—Texas coach Mack Brown on the South Division's 18-3 record vs. the North last year



TODD BLYTHE, IOWA STATE



# COLORADO BUFFALOES



BOULDER, COLO.

2004 Record: 8-5 overall, 4-4 Big 12 (beat UTEP in the Houston Bowl, 33-28)

Stadium: Folsom Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 53,750

Official athletic Web site: www.cubuffs.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

3 10 9 5 7  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

1

Head coach: Gary Barnett, 7th Year (42-33) Career Record: 85-89-2

Assistant coaches: Shawn Watson (off. coord./QB/WRs), Dave Borbely (off. line), Shawn Simms (RBs), John Wristen (TEs), Brian Cabral (asst. head coach/ILBs), Mike Hankwitz (def. coord./OLBs), Craig Bray (secondary), William Inge (def. line), Darian Hagan (off. asst.)



LAWRENCE VICKERS, VB

## Buff look to make all of their news on the football field this season

Colorado's 2004 season qualified as amazing in every possible way. And it was so because of the soap opera that unfolded in the eight months before the opening kickoff.

A quick review as one unbelievable story followed another:

- A Denver adult-entertainment operator said he provided strippers for recruiting parties.

- Boulder police released a statement from a woman who said she was sexually assaulted at a recruiting party in 2001.

- Former Buffs kicker Katie Hnida told *Sports Illustrated* she was raped by another football player.

- Coach Gary Barnett lost his cool and told reporters Hnida was a bad kicker. "She was awful," he said. "Katie was a girl, and not only was she a girl, she was terrible."

- A day later, Barnett appeared on CNN's "Larry King Live" to explain his comments, but it was too late. The next day, he was placed on paid administrative leave for the comments he made about Hnida and in a police report that said he'd support his player in a he-said, she-said assault case. Assistant head coach Brian Cabral took over the program for spring practice while Barnett served a suspension.

OK, kids, those of you who didn't transfer out, go out and play championship-level football.

They did. And just to keep things interesting, Colorado didn't win the North Division in the usual manner. The Buffs didn't grab the lead early or jockey for position with other contenders.

No, Colorado sank directly to the bottom, losing four of its first five conference games and stood dead last in the North with three games remaining.

But in this woeful division, nobody was out of the title picture the first week of November, and back came Colorado, winning its final three games and capping the run with a sweet triumph at Nebraska.

Even then, the championship wasn't assured. The Buffs needed Missouri to upset Iowa State in Ames a day later. That game went to overtime and a Tigers interception in the end zone sealed the deal for Colorado.

So, not until the final play of the league's regular season did the Buffs ever stand in first place, but there they were, headed to the league title game in one of the most tumultuous seasons imaginable.

"What it all came down to is what happened with your team between Aug. 5 and Dec. 4 is all that mattered," Barnett recalls.

Not all issues are resolved—Barnett faces accusations of a slush fund collected from football camp fees—and there was plenty of devastation left in the wake of the scandal. The Colorado president resigned. So did the athletic director, Dick Tharp, who was given the game ball after the Nebraska victory.

But in April, a federal judge threw out a lawsuit at the heart of the recruiting scandal, ruling that the school wasn't responsible for the actions of players and recruits at the recruiting party. That was bad news for women's rights groups, good news for the football program.

Here's some more good news for the Buffs: They should repeat as North winners.

In a division that should continue to struggle, Colorado is the one program with more answers than questions.

Experience? From the only team in the North to reach eight victories, including the postseason, Colorado returns 17 starters, including the kickers.

Quarterback? Joel Klatt bids to become the program's first three-year starter since Kordell Stewart. Klatt was the MVP of the Houston Bowl victory over Texas-El Paso, but there is plenty of room for improvement, starting with his 15-to-9 touchdown/interception ratio. Top competition is provided by junior James Cox, who got one start last season when Klatt's production fell. Colorado wants just that—competition—at the position.

"I'd be lying if I said it didn't motivate me during the offseason to work hard to solidify the spot," Klatt says.

Skill positions? The biggest loss is running back Bobby Purify, who was a wonder when he wasn't injured, which was about half of his career. Lawrence Vickers will be the V-back. "V" is for versatile, and Vickers will alternate between I-back and fullback. Colorado is looking to improve on 122 rushing yards per game.

Wide receiver isn't a team strength, but it's a capable unit with Evan Judge and Blake Mackey, who combined for 53 receptions last season. Colorado has top-notch tight ends in Quinn Sypniewski,

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Colorado State	27-24
S. 10	New Mexico State	
S. 24	@MIAMI (FL)	
O. 1	@OKLAHOMA STATE	14-42
O. 8	Texas A&M	26-29 (OT)
O. 15	@TEXAS	7-31
O. 22	Kansas	30-21
O. 29	@KANSAS STATE	38-31
N. 5	Missouri	9-17
N. 12	@IOWA STATE	19-14
N. 25	Nebraska	26-20

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 50/15

## OFFENSE

QB	14 Joel Klatt (6-1, 210, Sr.)
FB	30 Paul Creighton (6-5, 250, Jr.)
VB	17 Lawrence Vickers (6-2, 235, Sr.)
ST	77 Tyler Polumbus (6-8, 280, So.)
SG	63 Jack Tipton (6-3, 285, Jr.)
C	58 Mark Fenton (6-4, 295, Jr.)
TG	66 Brian Daniels (6-5, 300, Jr.)
TT	73 Clint O'Neal (6-6, 300, Sr.)
TE	89 Joe Klopfenstein (6-6, 245, Sr.)
WR	82 Evan Judge (6-2, 215, Sr.)
WR	9 Blake Mackey (6-3, 200, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	53 Abraham Wright (6-3, 240, Jr.)
NT	93 Vaka Manupana (6-1, 290, Sr.)
DT	82 James Garee (6-6, 275, Sr.)
DE	51 Alex Ligon (6-3, 250, Jr.)
OLB	27 Brian Iwuh (6-0, 225, Sr.)
ILB	49 Thaddeus Washington (5-11, 240, Jr.)
ILB	44 Jordon Dizon (6-0, 215, So.)
CB	22 Lorenzo Sims Jr. (5-11, 185, Jr.)
CB	26 Terrence Wheatley (5-10, 170, Jr.)
FS	9 Tom Hubbard (6-05, 220, Sr.)
SS	18 Dominique Brooks (6-1, 200, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	16 Mason Crosby (6-2, 210, Jr.)
P	29 John Torp (6-2, 205, Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Alvin Barnett, WR**  
Juco transfer bolsters least experienced unit.
2. **Maurice Greer, RB**  
The state of Colorado's top prospect.
3. **Terry Washington, CB**  
Signed w/Bufs as RB out of HS before going juco.
4. **Marcus Burton, LB**  
CU didn't need LBs, but couldn't pass on his speed.
5. **Maurice Lucas, DE**  
Barnett: He can be as good as any Buff DE ever.

BIG 12 NORTH





## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	COLORADO	OPP
SCORING	271	304
Points Per Game	22.6	25.3
FIRST DOWNS	202	262
Rushing	72	106
Passing	118	138
Penalty	12	18
RUSHING YARDAGE	1465	2064
Yards gained rushing	1703	2377
Yards lost rushing	238	313
Rushing Attempts	402	513
Average Per Rush	3.64	4.02
Average Per Game	122.1	172.0
PASSING YARDAGE	2462	3055
Att-Cmp-Int	387-224-18	410-240-14
Average Per Pass	6.36	7.45
Average Per Catch	11.0	12.7
Average Per Game	205.2	254.6
TOTAL OFFENSE	3927	5119
Total Plays	789	923
Average Per Play	4.98	5.55
Average Per Game	327.3	426.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-626	17-319
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	39-306	40-266
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-227	18-227
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.2	18.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.8	6.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.2	12.6
FUMBLES-LOST	18-8	20-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	94/706	74/564
PUNTS-YARDS	68-3151	68-2739
Average Per Punt	46.3	40.3
Net punt average	42.4	35.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:19	31:41
3RD-DOWN CONV.	59/172	92/205
3rd-Down Pct	34.3	44.9
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3-11	8/15
4th-Down Pct	27.3	53.3
SACKS BY-YARDS	20-117	31/200
MISC YARDS	41	6
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	25	36
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19/4	11/9

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Colorado	78	62	60	71	0	271
Opponent	56	86	58	101	3	304

2004  
INDIVIDUAL STATS  
OFFENSE

## PASSING

## Joel Klatt

GP	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD
12	334-192-15	57.5	2065	9

## James Cox

GP	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD
5	49-28-3	57.1	330	2

## RUSHING

	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
Bobby Purify	12	209	1017	4.9	9	84.8
Lawrence Vickers	12	60	248	4.1	2	20.7
Daniel Jolly	12	23	62	2.7	0	5.2

## RECEIVING

Evan Judge	11	29	336	12.5	3	30.5
Ron Monteilh	11	28	314	11.2	1	28.5
Joe Klopfenstein	12	28	284	10.1	4	23.7

## DEFENSE

## TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Asst.	Total
Brian Iwuh	12	74	24	98
Thaddeus Washington	12	54	39	93
Jordon Dizon	12	51	31	82

## SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Matt McChesney	12	7.0	38
Alex Ligon	12	4.5	42
Abraham Wright	12	4.5	30

## INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Lorenzo Sims	5	53	10.6	0
Terrence Wheatley	4	63	15.8	1
Thaddeus Washington	2	0	0.0	0

who was granted a sixth year of eligibility, and Joe Klopfenstein.

Defense? Ten starters return, but linebacker is the strongest position with juniors Thaddeus Washington and Chris Hollis, senior Akarika Dawn and sophomores Jordon Dizon and Joe Sanders. Washington ranked second on the team in tackles with 93, while Dizon was third (82) and Dawn fifth (71). Dizon was named the league's top freshman defensive player by league media and coaches.

Colorado is looking for new starting tackles, and although the secondary returns mostly intact, the group gave up 254 passing yards per game and 16 touchdowns. The big question mark is safety J.J. Billingsley, who was suspended indefinitely for academic reasons.

Special teams? Colorado might have the nation's best legs in punter John "Torpedo" Torp, who averaged 42.7 yards per punt, and kicker Mason Crosby, who booted a 54-yarder against UTEP and didn't miss from 15 attempts inside the 40.

Perhaps the best stat: Colorado opponents started 80 of 159 drives inside the 20 thanks to accurate punting and deep kicking.

Such a veteran team is the favorite to capture its fourth division title in five years, but will the program realize predictions of dire consequences in the post-scandal era? Recruiting rules were changed because of Colorado, and the program self-imposed even tighter restrictions on itself.

Barnett says the program used the new guidelines, such as one overnight stay on visits, to its advantage.

"We weren't going to get shackled by it," Barnett says.

IN PROFILE ...  
JOEL KLATTEx-baseball player showed  
grace during turbulent 2004  
season as Colorado QB

Last October, Joel Klatt found himself in an unusual place: on the team bench, watching his Colorado teammates take the field against Iowa State. Instead of sulking, Klatt, then a junior quarterback, relaxed. Finally, the pressure was off.

He returned for the second half against the Cyclones, helping Colorado to a 19-14 win. Coaches and teammates say Klatt displayed impeccable leadership that day and throughout a controversy-filled season for the program.

"He went through some humbling, but he really found himself after that," says Shawn Watson, Colorado's offensive coordinator. "That's the way Joel's always been. He listens, he accepts criticism and he works at making himself and the whole team better."

Overall, the Buffaloes posted an 8-5 record last year, including an appearance in the Big 12 Championship Game and a win in the team's bowl appearance.

Klatt, a former San Diego Padres prospect who came to Colorado as a walk-on, must provide steady leadership and coax strong performances out of a young receiving corps this season if the Buffaloes are to overcome yet another long offseason. (Lingering recruiting scandals and

Colorado got to know these prospects and their parents better than any in Barnett's career.

"We had a class of student-athletes who chose to come to Colorado," Barnett says. "None of them were talked into it; they all had choices. A lot of recruits did their homework before coming to Colorado."


The Buffs signed 25, and the class generally wasn't rated among the nation's top 40. The top-ranked prospect was running back Maurice Greer, a Denver product who rushed for 5,400 yards and 98 touchdowns in his career.

But the theme of this year's class was to find players who can help the Buffs match up physically with league bullies Oklahoma and Texas. The Longhorns thumped Colorado 31-7 in Boulder, and the Sooners manhandled the Buffs 42-3 in the Big 12 Championship Game.

"Those are the two programs we need to close the gap on," Barnett says. "This recruiting class was a step in that direction."

The best story of the class is James Lewis of Venice High School in Los Angeles. He played wide receiver, safety and kick returner and was named Los Angeles City Player of the Year in 2003. Lewis didn't go to school as a sophomore to care for his mother, who had cancer. He couldn't complete his degree requirements to graduate with his high school class in 2004, so he went to live with relatives in Texas but didn't get to play last season.

"He's a tremendous athlete and a great story as well," Barnett says.

Great stories are always welcome at Colorado. 



investigations led to the departures of the school's chancellor, president and athletic director.)

"As good as he is throwing the ball, he provides just as many intangibles," says Dave Lapham, an analyst on Fox Sports Net's Big 12 games. "There is nobody in the country that has more credibility with his teammates than Klatt does."

On the field, Klatt must adapt to an inexperienced receiving corps. Prime evidence: His total yardage slipped from a stellar sophomore campaign, when he had four veteran wideouts who didn't return in 2004. Last season he threw just nine TD passes, compared with 15 interceptions. In the spring game, Klatt had seven passes dropped.

His past life as a baseball prospect helps Klatt keep setbacks in perspective.

"Because the season is so long and you have to deal with failure, baseball teaches you to keep things on an even keel," Klatt says. "That has helped me a lot as a football player."

And off the field?

Klatt says the headlines have obscured a program rich in character and tradition.

Once people get close to the Colorado players and coaches, "a lot of the perceptions are squashed." And, Klatt says, a Big 12 title this season would only serve to reinforce the notion of Colorado football both on and off the field.

—Erik Spanberg



# NEBRASKA

## CORNHUSKERS



LINCOLN, NEB.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 Big 12

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.huskers.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 73,918



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:



2

Head coach: Bill Callahan, 2nd Year (5-6) Career Record: 5-6

Assistant coaches: Kevin Cosgrove (def. coord./LBs), Jay Norvell (off. coord./QBs), John Blake (def. line), Bill Busch (safeties/special teams coord.), Scott Downing (TEs/specialists/recruiting coord.), Phil Elmassian (CBs), Ted Gilmore (WRs), Randy Jordan (RBs), Dennis Wagner (off. line)

## Callahan turns to Kansas juco ranks for engineer to drive his West Coast attack

**S**ay this about Nebraska coach Bill Callahan: He knows how to make an impression. The two big moments entering the 2005 season came in February and April with the revelation of a highly regarded recruiting class and a spring game that had the Big Red masses buzzing.

Of course, Nebraska needed some positive energy after a 2004 season that sank to depths unseen in four decades. The Cornhuskers finished 5-6, their first losing record since 1961. Also gone was the amazing bowl streak. Nebraska had been to the postseason every year since 1969.

It all happened as Callahan changed the offensive structure from time-tested option to new-wave West Coast offense, but the program just didn't have the players to make it happen.

Soon after the loss that cinched turning the 'Huskers into losers—to Colorado at home to end the season—Callahan went to work on fixing the program.

Shaking up the roster was the first order of business, and to that end Nebraska welcomed 31 newcomers, including 19 freshmen and 12 junior-college transfers. Every position was bolstered, and Nebraska will likely weave more new faces into the two-deep than any team in the Big 12 and perhaps the nation.

The most important is quarterback Zac Taylor.

It wasn't until late last season, while Taylor was guiding Butler County (Kan.) Community College to the juco national title game, that the junior QB appeared on the Nebraska radar. Taylor, who had spent his freshman season as a reserve at Wake Forest, figured he'd end up at Marshall.

But the Cornhuskers desperately sought a position upgrade after 2004 starter Joe Dailey confirmed the worst fears. Recruited as an option quarterback under Frank Solich, Dailey had trouble grasping the complexities of the West Coast. He completed 49 percent of his passes, with 17 touchdowns and 19 interceptions. He transferred out of the program in the spring.

A change was needed, and Nebraska had already signed highly regarded prospect Harrison Beck of Clearwater, Fla. But it would be unfair to ask Beck to step in immediately.

Nebraska coaches liked Taylor's strong arm and his football sense. He's the son of former Oklahoma defensive back Sherwood Taylor, who later served as an Oklahoma and Kansas State assistant coach. Taylor grew up Norman, Okla., committed to Oklahoma State but switched to Wake Forest.

"I didn't know where I'd be, major college or Division I," Taylor says of his final few weeks at Butler County. "But it worked out well."

Nebraska hopes so. Taylor could not have made a greater impression in his first public showing at the spring game. Before 63,000, he completed 20 of 27 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns, all in the first half.

Nebraska hadn't seen a quarterback throw as well as Taylor under any circumstances since the days of Vince Ferragamo and David Humm in the 1970s. It was the kind of passing attack fans expected last season.

"Taking care of the ball, not throwing picks, that's what I need to do," Taylor says.

Callahan says he was impressed with how quickly Taylor had absorbed Butler County's offense in one season.

"We knew by watching him at Butler that he



DANIEL BULLOCKS, S

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Maine	
S. 10	Wake Forest	
S. 17	Pittsburgh	24-17
O. 1	Iowa State	27-34
O. 8	Texas Tech	10-70
O. 15	@BAYLOR	59-27
O. 22	@MISSOURI	24-3
O. 29	Oklahoma	3-30
N. 5	@KANSAS	14-8
N. 12	Kansas State	21-45
N. 25	@COLORADO	20-26

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16

Lettermen returning/lost: 41/13

#### OFFENSE

QB	13	Zac Taylor (6-2, 210, Jr.)
FB	41	Dane Todd (5-10, 240, Jr.)
IB	4	Cory Ross (5-6, 195, Sr.)
LT	77	Seppo Ewmaray (6-5, 330, Sr.)
LG	75	Brandon Koch (6-4, 315, Sr.)
C	50	Kurt Mann (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RG	65	Greg Austin (6-1, 295, Jr.)
RT	79	Cornelius Fuamatu-Thomas (6-5, 335, Sr.)
TE	11	Matt Herian (6-5, 240, Sr.)
WR	9	Mark LeFlore (5-11, 195, Sr.)
WR	83	Terrence Nunn (6-0, 190, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	44	Jay Moore (6-4, 275, Jr.)
NT	66	Le Kevin Smith (6-2, 305, Sr.)
DT	96	Titus Adams (6-3, 300, Sr.)
DE	90	Adam Carriker (6-6, 280, Jr.)
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley (6-4, 240, Jr.)
MLB	40	Lance Brandenburgh (6-1, 230, So.)
WLB	15	Steve Octavien (6-0, 235, Jr.)
LCB	2	Cortney Grixby (5-9, 165, So.)
RCB	6	Donald DeFrank (6-0, 175, Sr.)
FS	8	Andrew Shanley (6-1, 205, Jr.)
SS	14	Daniel Bullocks (6-2, 210, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	27	David Dyches (6-1, 180, Jr.)
P	37	Sam Koch (6-1, 230, Sr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Zac Taylor, QB**  
Interestingly, a graduate of Norman (Okla.) High.
- Marlon Lucky, RB**  
Great burst; rushed for 4,881 yards in prep career.
- Zackary Bowman, CB**  
Great athlete with 38-inch vertical fills big need.
- Jordan Congdon, K**  
Rated by some services as the nation's top kicker.
- Chris Brooks, WR**  
Top prospect in Missouri caught 66 passes in '04.

BIG 12 NORTH



ADAM CARRIKER, DE



### 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	NEBRASKA	OPP
<b>SCORING</b>	275	298
Points Per Game	25.0	27.1
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	194	209
Rushing	85	67
Passing	96	127
Penalty	13	15
<b>RUSHING YARDAGE</b>	1939	1144
Yards gained rushing	2149	1476
Yards lost rushing	210	332
Rushing Attempts	412	390
Average Per Rush	4.7	2.9
Average Per Game	176.3	104.0
TDs Rushing	18	14
<b>PASSING YARDAGE</b>	2056	2944
Att-Comp-Int	322-156-23	448-254-14
Average Per Pass	6.4	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.2	11.6
Average Per Game	186.9	267.6
TDs Passing	17	18
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	3995	4088
Total Plays	734	838
Average Per Play	5.4	4.9
Average Per Game	363.2	371.6
<b>KICK RETURNS: #-YDS</b>	44-865	30-742
<b>PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS</b>	31-181	24-145
<b>INT RETURNS: #-YDS</b>	14-352	23-292
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.7	24.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	5.8	6.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	25.1	12.7
<b>FUMBLES-LOST</b>	25-10	19-7
<b>PENALTIES-YARDS</b>	75-561	91-678
Average Per Game	51.0	61.6
<b>PUNTS-YARDS</b>	64-2602	71-2809
Average Per Punt	40.7	39.6
Net punt average	38.4	37.0
<b>TIME OF POSS./GAME</b>	27:55	32:05
<b>3RD-DOWN CONV.</b>	47/153	73/195
3rd-Down Pct	31%	37%
<b>4TH-DOWN CONV.</b>	9/20	9/20
4th-Down Pct	45%	45%
<b>SACKS BY-YARDS</b>	25-164	16-117
<b>MISC YARDS</b>	10	0
<b>TOUCHDOWNS SCORED</b>	37	35
<b>FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS</b>	6-12	18-23
<b>PAT-ATTEMPTS</b>	35-36	32-33
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	466153	274899
Games/Avg Per Game	6/77692	5/54980
Neutral Site Games		0/0

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Nebraska	41	107	63	64	—	275
Opponent	62	83	95	58	—	298

### 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

<b>PASSING</b>							
<b>Joe Dailey</b>							
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G	
11	110.06	310-153-19	49.4	2025	17	184.1	
<b>Beau Davis</b>							
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G	
1	-74.9	8-1-4	12.5	12	0	12.0	
<b>Ross Pilkington</b>							
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G	
11	259.60	1-1-0		19	0	1.7	
<b>RUSHING</b>							
	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G		
Cory Ross	11	207	1102	5.3	6	100.2	
Brandon Jackson	10	85	390	4.6	6	39.0	
Tierre Green	11	44	284	6.5	2	25.8	
<b>RECEIVING</b>							
	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
Ross Pilkington	11	27	337	12.5	2	30.6	
Matt Herian	8	24	308	12.8	3	38.5	
Cory Ross	11	21	262	12.5	2	23.8	

### DEFENSE

<b>TACKLES</b>				
	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Barrett Ruud	11	86	57	143
Stewart Bradley	11	38	29	67
Josh Bullocks	11	43	20	63
<b>SACKS</b>				
	GP	No.	Yds.	
Benard Thomas	11	4.0	35	
Adam Carriker	10	3.0	18	
Barrett Ruud	11	3.0	7	
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Daniel Bullocks	5	187	37.4	0
Fabian Washington	3	23	7.7	0
Ira Cooper	2	95	47.5	0

would be able to come in, adjust and do the things we wanted him to do rather quickly," Callahan says. "He's a smart guy and he prepares well. That normally leads to good production."

And, brother, do the Huskers need good production. Last season, Nebraska turned in its worst defensive statistics since 1948 by yielding 27 points and 379 yards per game. And this from a defense that sent cornerback Fabian Washington, linebacker Barrett Ruud and free safety Josh Bullocks into the early rounds of the NFL Draft.

How did that happen? The offense was so inefficient, the 'Huskers ran 60 fewer plays than the next-worst Big 12 team in that category, and 210 fewer plays than league-leader Texas Tech. The defense was on the field far too long.

But is there enough around the quarterback for Nebraska to make a push to the top of the North?

Maybe. Five starters return on offense, and five on defense. Among the playmakers are tailback Cory Ross, who rushed for 1,102 yards during a mostly injury-plagued 2004 season. He also caught 21 passes. In his breakout game, the 5-6 Ross rushed for 194 yards on 19 carries against Missouri. He was the only running back to top 100 yards against Oklahoma during the regular season.

The other half of the Bullocks twins, Daniel, returns after brother Josh turned pro a year early, getting selected early in the second round by New Orleans. Daniel, a strong safety, is the lone returning starter in the secondary, and he's a good one. He led Nebraska with five interceptions.

The defensive line is the team's known strength. Tackles Le Kevin Smith and Titus Adams make up the division's best interior defense. Both seniors tip the scales at around 300 pounds and helped hold opponents to 2.9 yards per carry last season.

Also back on the defensive line is defensive end Adam Carriker. Much was expected from the 6-6, 280-pound Carriker, but an ankle injury suffered in the second game kept his motor from running at capacity most of last season.

### IN PROFILE ... CORY ROSS

*Diminutive tailback looks for another 1,000-yard rushing season*

Bill Callahan installed the pass-happy West Coast offense during his debut season at Nebraska last year, but Cory Ross didn't notice an aversion to running. What he noticed instead was an offense with a lot more variables.

"What you have to understand is that you may throw the ball 50 times one week and you may run it 50 the next one," Ross says. "It can go anywhere. It opens up your mind as a football player."

Opening up defenses is Ross's stock in trade. The 5-6, 195-pound senior running back, known as "Pork Chop" to his teammates, logged 207 carries during 2004, more than double that of any of the other Cornhusker runners. He gained a team-high 1,102 yards and finished third in reception yardage with 262.

None of which makes Ross happy, since Nebraska stumbled to a 5-6 season and spent the holidays at home. The team's 25-point scoring

Stewart Bradley is the only starter back at linebacker. Letter-winners Lance Brandenburg, Adam Ickes and Bo Ruud, the younger brother of graduated Barrett Ruud, will compete for spots along with junior-college transfers Steve Octavien and Dontrell Moore.

The secondary was strengthened with a switch. Tierre Green, the team's third-leading rusher with 284 yards, could play one corner, with Cortney Grixby set for the other side. Freshman Zack Bowman, a juco transfer from Alaska, is expected to break through in the secondary.

Several newcomers figure to get plenty of snaps on offense, especially at the skill spots. The receiving corps of Terrence Nunn, Mark Leflore, Grant Mulkey and Isaiah Fluellen will be joined by juco transfer Frantz Hardy and freshman Chris Brooks.

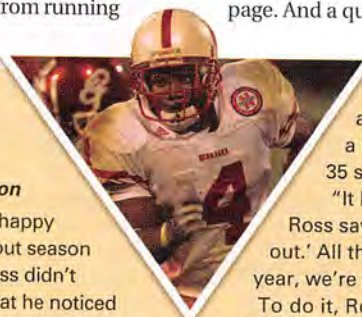
Ross's backup might end up being Marlon Lucky, a freshman from Los Angeles who rushed for 2,026 yards and 40 touchdowns last season. Lucky picked the 'Huskers over Southern Cal and Washington.

There may be too many new faces for the Cornhuskers to be a division favorite, but the incoming class puts a positive spin on the future. Some Nebraska fans believe Callahan burned up his honeymoon after last year. They would have been willing to forgive a 6-5 season, which would have kept alive the bowl streak. But a losing season only accelerated the timetable for success.

Another losing season would put the squeeze on Callahan. But nobody around the program expects that to happen. Nebraska was caught in a transition year. New system, new coaches—the third set in three years for the defense—and much confusion. This was a team that went 10-3 the previous year and popular coaches were fired.

"There might have been a little tension before," offensive tackle Seppo Ewvaraye says. "It's always hard to lose coaches that you like and maybe you thought things were going well."

A year later, everybody seems to be on the same page. And a quarterback who seems to fit the system is a nice bonus.



average was the second lowest for a Nebraska squad during the past 35 seasons.

"It left a bitter taste in our mouths,"

Ross says. "Our attitude now is, 'look out.' All those teams that beat up on us last year, we're ready to pay them back."

To do it, Ross will have to turn in another strong season. He should get some relief in the backfield with a stellar crop of recruits coming to Lincoln.

Beyond that, Ross and Nebraska coaches say the players have become much more familiar, and comfortable, with Callahan's offensive strategy. They expect that newfound understanding to begin paying dividends in 2005.

"Cory Ross will be a big factor for them," says Dave Lapham, a Fox Sports Net analyst on Big 12 games. "He reminds me of [former Kansas State running back] Darren Sproles. He's tough to tackle, short, tough to see over the linemen and he accelerates really well."

—Erik Spanberg



# IOWA STATE CYCLONES



AMES, IOWA

**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 4-4 Big 12 (beat Miami (Ohio) in the Independence Bowl, 17-13)

**Stadium:** Jack Trice Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 45,814

**Official athletic Web site:** www.cyclones.com



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

3

9 7 7 2 7  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

**Head coach:** Dan McCarney, 11th Year (45-72) **Career Record:** 45-72

**Assistant coaches:** Terry Allen (assoc. head coach/TEs/special teams), Tony Alford (asst. head coach/RBs), Barney Cotton (off. coord./off. line), John Skladany (def. coord./LBs), Chris Ash (secondary), DeMontie Cross (OLBs/special teams), Todd Fitch (QBs), Mike Grant (WRs), Mike Nelson (def. line)



STEVE PARIS, FS

## With four bowl games in five seasons, McCarney and Cyclones building steady respect

**H**ow close did Iowa State come to its greatest accomplishment in program history? A missed 24-yard field goal.

Actually, the kick from the leg of Bret Culbertson missed by a wide margin on a wet and cold Ames afternoon against Missouri. And to be fair, the Cyclones had more opportunities to beat the Tigers and win their first North Division championship—the first football trophy for ISU since 1912.

But Missouri prevailed in overtime and Iowa State was left with a bellyful of conflicted feelings.

Sure, losing out on a championship and not playing before a packed house in the Big 12 title game was crushing. However, the bigger picture is a bright one. Iowa State was picked to finish last in the division after getting drubbed in all eight league games in 2003. Although Colorado represented the North in the title game, the Cyclones tied for first place. The leaders sported dubious 4-4 records, but heck, the commemorative co-championship T-shirts don't have to mention that.

Along the way, the Cyclones thumped Nebraska and Kansas State. A four-game winning streak started—and a 13-game league losing streak ended—at Baylor when Iowa State drove the length of the field and punched in a final-minute touchdown from Stevie Hicks, his first score after 260 rushing attempts.

The win at K-State happened after Iowa State trailed by 14 in the fourth quarter and scored three touchdowns in the final three and a half minutes.

The season ended with a bowl victory, and no program in the North can top Iowa State's run of four postseason games in five years.

What went right? Many things that coach Dan McCarney hopes to bring into the 2005 season.

For starters, quarterback Bret Meyer won the job over incumbent Austin Flynn the previous spring and got better with each game. He capped a redshirt-freshman season by winning the Offensive MVP of the Independence Bowl.

"He can be one of the better Big 12 quarterbacks in his career," McCarney says.

Hicks rushed for 1,062 yards, becoming the program's first running back to top the 1,000-yard

mark in four years. He'll get competition from Jason Scales, a sophomore who rushed for more than 6,000 yards in his Iowa prep career.

First-year offensive coordinator and line coach Barney Cotton turned his group into one of the league's top units. Enough returns for the Cyclones to remain there with the likes of tackle Aaron Brant and guard Kory Pence. The team's most important addition is Scott Stephenson, a transfer from Minnesota who will give Seth Zehr competition at center.

Were it not for record-setting Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson, Iowa State wide receiver Todd Blythe would have been the named the league's top offensive rookie. Blythe, who missed spring practice with ACL surgery, set a school record with nine touchdown catches.

While the offense was a work-in-progress, Iowa State's defense held firm all season. The Cyclones finished in the league's top five in every major defensive category and its rushing defense was the program's best since World War II. The defense scored six touchdowns. Only the Miami Hurricanes scored more non-offensive touchdowns than Iowa State (seven) last season.

Eight starters are back on defense and the line is the strength. Tackle Brent Curvey, end Shawn Moorehead and nose guard Nick Leaders have turned the Cyclones into a feared front. Now, there's talk of McCarney bringing back Jason Berryman, the league's top defensive freshman in 2003 who was jailed for eight months as a result of theft and assault charges.

Middle linebacker Tim Dobbins is a playmaker that won last season's Top Defensive Newcomer award in the Big 12. Three starters are back in the secondary, but the loss of Ellis Hobbs means the Cyclones must find a new defensive leader.

The kicking game remained abysmal throughout spring. In the final scrimmage, kickers missed four field goals and an extra point. The Cyclones wouldn't have needed to beat Missouri in the season finale had they made kicks earlier in the season at Colorado.

But everywhere else, Iowa State is about as set as any team in the North and another run to the top is expected this season. **3**

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Illinois State	
S. 10	Iowa	10-17
S. 24	@ARMY	
O. 1	@NEBRASKA	34-27
O. 8	Baylor	26-25
O. 15	@MISSOURI	14-17 (OT)
O. 22	Oklahoma State	7-36
O. 29	@TEXAS A&M	3-34
N. 5	Kansas State	37-23
N. 12	Colorado	14-19
N. 19	@KANSAS	13-7

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20

Lettermen returning/lost: 31/19

### OFFENSE

QB	7	Bret Meyer (6-4, 205, So.)
FB	31	Ryan Kock (6-1, 245, Jr.)
IB	27	Stevie Hicks (6-2, 215, Jr.)
LT	62	Johannes Egbers (6-3, 290, Sr.)
LG	72	Kory Pence (6-4, 315, Sr.)
C	58	Seth Zehr (6-6, 300, Jr.)
RG	65	Fabian Dodd (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RT	75	Aaron Brant (6-7, 315, Jr.)
TE	16	Walter Nickel (6-3, 235, Jr.)
WR	81	Jon Davis (6-4, 200, Jr.)
SE	1	Todd Blythe (6-5, 205, So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	29	Korey Smith (6-4, 245, Jr.)
NG	66	Nick Leaders (6-2, 290, Sr.)
DT	52	Brent Curvey (6-0, 305, Jr.)
RUSH	40	Shawn Moorehead (6-3, 245, Jr.)
SLB	25	Nick Frere (6-1, 230, Fr.)
MLB	44	Tim Dobbins (6-2, 245, Sr.)
WLB	11	Matt Robertson (6-1, 235, Jr.)
LCB	4	DeAndre Jackson (6-0, 190, Jr.)
RCB	24	LaMarcus Hicks (6-0, 195, Sr.)
FS	8	Steve Paris (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SS	9	Nik Moser (6-0, 205, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Bret Culbertson (6-5, 195, So.)
P	24	Troy Blankenship (6-1, 195, Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Scott Fisher, OL**  
Juco passes the eye test at 6-7, 323 pounds.
- Brice Beck, QB**  
Could have a long wait behind soph Bret Meyer.
- Walter Nickel, TE**  
6-4, 235-pounder and was a top-25 JC prospect.
- Chris Singleton, DB**  
Floridian originally committed to South Carolina.
- Reggie Stephens, OL**  
Top high school OL signed by the Cyclones.

BIG 12 NORTH





BRANDON ARCHER, LB

# KANSAS STATE

## WILDCATS

MANHATTAN, KAN.

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Big 12  
Stadium: KSU Stadium/Wagner Field  
Official athletic Web site: [www.k-statesports.com](http://www.k-statesports.com)

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 50,000

PRESEASON RANK:

4

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Bill Snyder, 17th Year (131-62-1) Career Record: 131-62-1

Assistant coaches: Joe Bob Clements (recruiting coord./def. ends), Chris Cosh (LBs), Bob Elliott (def. coord./secondary), Mo Latimore (interior def. line), Del Miller (off. coord./QB), Matt Miller (TEs), Greg Peterson (WRs), Michael Smith (RBs), Bob Stanley (off. line)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Florida International	
S. 10	@MARSHALL	
S. 24	North Texas	
O. 1	@OKLAHOMA	21-31
O. 8	Kansas	28-31
O. 15	@TEXAS TECH	25-35
O. 22	Texas A&M	30-42
O. 29	Colorado	31-38
N. 5	@IOWA STATE	23-37
N. 12	@NEBRASKA	45-21
N. 19	Missouri	35-24

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 30/24

#### OFFENSE

QB	9	Dylan Meier (6-3, 210, Jr.)
FB	42	Victor Mann (6-2, 255, Sr.)
RB	21	Carlos Alsup (6-1, 210, Sr.)
LT	73	Gerard Spexarth (6-7, 290, r-Fr.)
LG	72	John Hafferty (6-3, 305, So.)
C	70	Ryan Schmidt (6-5, 290, r-Fr.)
RG	67	Greg Wafford (6-2, 315, Jr.)
RT	66	Jeromey Clary (6-7, 300, Sr.)
TE	89	Rashaad Norwood (6-5, 230, So.)
WR	10	Jermaine Moreira (5-11, 190, Jr.)
WR	16	Yamon Figs (6-0, 180, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	92	Tearrius George (6-4, 250, Sr.)
LT	56	Quintin Echols (6-2, 235, Sr.)
RT	95	Derek Marso (6-3, 295, Sr.)
RE	93	Scott Edmonds (6-4, 260, Sr.)
SLB	46	Brandon Archer (6-2, 225, Jr.)
MLB	45	Ted Sims (6-1, 235, Sr.)
WLB	59	Matt Butler (6-2, 235, Sr.)
CB	17	Maurice Porter (6-1, 185, Sr.)
CB	6	Byron Garvin (5-10, 180, So.)
FS	23	Jesse Tetuan (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SS	24	Maurice Mack (6-0, 200, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	19	Jeff Snodgrass (6-2, 200, So.)
P	17	Tim Reyer (6-0, 195, So.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Kevin Lopina, QB  
Dual threat originally committed to Oregon State.
- Jonathan Lewis, DE  
Was the Wildcats' top-rated high school recruit.
- Steve Burch, DE  
Juco figures to compete immediately for end job.
- Ricky Miller, DE  
Juco transfer selected K-State sight unseen.
- Willie Williams, DT  
Juco originally committed to Oklahoma State.

## Snyder turns to discipline to right ship and help Wildcats forget disastrous '04

**W**ell, that was different. After 11 seasons, Kansas State forgot how to win and wound up on the bottom of the division standings.

Actually, the Wildcats tied Kansas for last, but in a season of many firsts, the Jayhawks could crow about breaking an 11-game losing streak to their rival.

The 2-6 league record was the worst for the program since coach Bill Snyder's first season, 1989, when the Wildcats went winless in Big Eight play. Starting in 1993, there had been 11 straight bowl seasons.

Only a year earlier, K-State enjoyed the greatest moment in program history when it walloped top-ranked Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship Game.

From there, the Wildcats unraveled. In the second game, Kansas State was manhandled by Fresno State in Manhattan. The other losses were close—all six league losses were decided in the fourth quarter—and it added up to plenty of despair.

And a resolve to not let it happen again.

"We need to have a better understanding that if you want good things to happen, you have to make them happen," Snyder says. "They don't happen because they happened in the past. We have to understand the tremendous amount of effort that's required to be successful."

Kansas State also has to recruit better. No doubt the seeds of the 2004 disaster were sewn with recruiting misses over the last few seasons. The Wildcats' seemingly endless supply of impact defensive players dried up. That's why K-State went heavy on defense in this recruiting class.

But it's the returning talent that has to make the difference. Kansas State had spent the previous six seasons ranked among the nation's top six in total defense.

Along the line, end Scott Edmonds led the team with 8.5 tackles for loss and seven sacks. Tearrius George came on strong toward the end of the season and came up with three sacks from the other end spot.

Derek Marso and Quintin Echols are the leaders at the tackle spots. Newcomers who could make an impact on the line are juco-transfer

ends Steve Burch and Ricky Miller and freshman Jonathan Lewis.

Linebacker Brandon Archer returned a pair of interceptions for touchdowns in 2004. Middle linebacker Ted Sims looks to rebound from an injury-plagued junior season. Marvin Simmons, also a candidate in the middle, had an inconsistent spring. Matt Butler played all three linebacker positions last season, but was recovering from injuries during the spring.

The secondary is unsettled, and Snyder's message that no position is locked up is being heard here. Free safety Jesse Tetuan, who has started 26 straight games, was listed as a co-starter during spring practice with Marcus Watts, a special-teams player and wide receiver last season.

The quarterback job is also open. Dylan Meier made six starts, completed 58 percent of his throws and had nine touchdowns. Allen Webb started the other five games and topped 100 rushing yards twice, including a 147-yard effort against Nebraska. Also in the mix is Allan Evridge, a left-hander who was impressive in the spring but lacks game experience.

The offensive line will be retooled except for guard Jeromey Clary, who has started 26 games at tackle and has become one of the team's emotional leaders. Of the 10 players listed on the spring two-deep depth chart, eight hadn't played a down for the Wildcats.

The biggest loss is at running back. Darren Sproles departs as the school's career-leading rusher, and the four players in the mix to replace him—Carlos Alsup, Thomas Clayton, Donnie Anders and Parrish Fisher—combined for 77 yards last season. Clayton started his career at Florida State and figures to battle Alsup for the starting role.

The wide receivers are the most proven commodities on offense. Jermaine Moreira, Yamon Figs and Davin Dennis combined for more than 1,200 yards receiving in '04. Rashaad Norwood will replace Brian Casey at tight end.

It may not be the most talented team Snyder has fielded, but no team will have endured a more demanding offseason. Offseason conditioning leading up to spring workouts started at 6 a.m., sometimes at 5:30 a.m. Some players compared it to a boot camp.

"I thought we needed to be a more disciplined football team," Snyder says. "I thought we needed to be harder-working team, a more dedicated football team."



# MISSOURI

## TIGERS



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 Big 12

Official athletic Web site: www.mutigers.com

For all the disappointing seasons in the Big 12 North last season, Missouri had more reason to feel humbled than anyone.

The Tigers entered the year coming off a bowl season and changed with experience. It seemed time to take the next step to serious division contender. And how cool would it have been to win a first division title with the league championship game held in nearby Kansas City?

But Missouri was rocked early by a loss at Troy. Three straight victories seemed to calm the waters, but then a five-game losing streak crushed postseason hopes.

Making matters worse, quarterback Brad Smith regressed as a junior. Coach Gary Pinkel wanted to make him more of a passing threat, but Smith's passing rating was the worst of his career. And his rushing output fell by more than 900 yards. As a sophomore he went for 1,406 yards and 18 touchdowns. Last season, it was 553 and four scores. The team scored 32 touchdowns compared to 53 the previous year.

"We took a step back, and now we're trying to get back to where we need to be," Smith says.

To that end, Pinkel has come up with a new offensive scheme. Missouri will operate from a spread with Smith being the only player in the backfield at times. Think Utah.

The idea is to get Smith some space, because throughout his career he's been most dangerous when he's had the option to improvise. The offense should promote that.

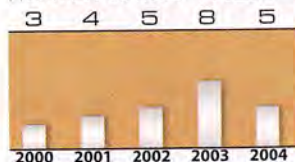
Six other offensive starters return, led by wide receivers Sean Coffey and Brad Ekwerekwu. The Tigers have one of the league's better tight ends in Martin Rucker, who caught 19 passes and four touchdowns last season.

Damien Nash, a critic of last year's offense, skipped his final year for the NFL, leaving the Tigers with only Marcus Woods as an experienced running back. He gained 428 yards. Also in the mix is Tony Temple.

Guard Tony Palmer and center Adam Spieker are the lone full-timers back on the line.

The defense held up well last season, but now it's being retooled. The Tigers will build around end Xzavie Jackson, safety Jason Simpson and cornerback Marcus King.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@ARKANSAS STATE	52-20
S. 10	New Mexico	
S. 17	Troy	14-24
O. 1	Texas	20-28
O. 8	@OKLAHOMA STATE	17-20
O. 15	Iowa State	17-14 (OT)
O. 22	Nebraska	3-24
O. 29	@KANSAS	14-31
N. 5	@COLORADO	17-9
N. 12	Baylor	30-10
N. 19	@KANSAS STATE	24-35

Head coach: Gary Pinkel,  
5th Year (22-25)

Career Record: 95-62-3

Stadium: Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 68,349

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/25

#### OFFENSE

QB	16 Brad Smith (6-2, 210, Sr.)
TB	20 Marcus Woods (5-8, 185, So.)
LT	79 Tyler Luellen (6-7, 295, So.)
LG	52 Tony Palmer (6-2, 325, Sr.)
C	77 Adam Spieker (6-3, 310, So.)
RG	55 Mike Cook (6-2, 320, Jr.)
RT	74 Joel Clinger (6-6, 310, Jr.)
TE	82 Martin Rucker (6-5, 245, So.)
WR	12 Sean Coffey (6-5, 220, Sr.)
WR	3 Will Franklin (6-2, 195, So.)
WR	86 Brad Ekwerekwu (6-3, 215, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	39 Brian Smith (6-3, 225, Jr.)
NT	81 Earl Stephens (6-4, 300, Sr.)
DT	30 Lorenzo Williams (6-2, 275, So.)
DE	48 Xzavie Jackson (6-4, 260, Jr.)
SLB	15 Marcus Bacon (6-2, 220, Jr.)
MLB	33 Dedrick Harrington (6-3, 240, Jr.)
WLB	40 Derrick Ming (5-11, 245, Sr.)
CB	7 A.J. Kincade (5-10, 190, Sr.)
CB	36 Marcus King (5-10, 195, Sr.)
FS	6 Jason Simpson (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	8 David Overstreet (6-0, 210, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	90 Adam Crossett (6-2, 215, So.)
P	10 Matt Hoene (6-1, 195, Jr.)

# KANSAS

## JAYHAWKS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Big 12

Official athletic Web site: www.kuathletics.com

Was it a comment on the weakness of the division, or does Kansas coach Mark Mangino have an especially good feeling about his team when asked to assess the division race?

"Do not count us out," Mangino says defiantly.

Nobody gets counted out in the Big 12, and the Jayhawks showed they could play with anybody on their schedule in 2004 during a 4-7 season. Kansas had fourth-quarter leads against Northwestern and Texas Tech, and led Texas by 10 points with just over four minutes remaining.

The Jayhawks were that close to competing for the division title and a second straight bowl game.

Fifteen returning starters support Mangino's confidence. But Kansas has a quarterback issue to settle.

The three contenders all had positive moments last year. Adam Barmann started the first eight games, throwing for 1,427 yards and 12 touchdowns before a shoulder injury ended his season.

Jason Swanson provided the season's signature play, a 31-yard touchdown strike to Mark Simmons that gave the Jayhawks a victory over Kansas State.

Brian Luke was the starting QB in the near-miss loss to Texas and the season-ending victory over Missouri. Spring practice didn't settle the matter.

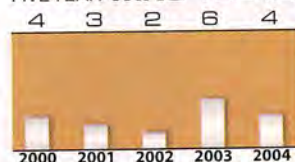
The backfield took a hit when running back John Randle was kicked off the team, but Kansas has plenty of talent still on board with Clark Green and Gary Green. Simmons is back at wide receiver, but he's the only player returning who caught more than 10 passes last season. Four starters return on the offensive line.

The Jayhawks had their best defense in a decade last season. The linebacking trio of Banks Floodman, Nick Reid and Kevin Kane is one of the Big 12's best.

The team's top player, Charles Gordon, has settled in a cornerback after doubling up as a wide receiver/corner earlier in his career. He led the nation with seven interceptions last season and often shut down the opposing team's top receiver. Gordon could become the program's first consensus All-American since quarterback David Jaynes in 1973.

"Our defense is going to be pretty darn good," Mangino says. "It's quick, it's fast, it's smart, it's tough, it's physical."

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Florida Atlantic	
S. 10	Appalachian State	
S. 17	Louisiana Tech	
O. 1	@TEXAS TECH	30-31
O. 8	@KANSAS STATE	31-28
O. 15	Oklahoma	10-41
O. 22	@COLORADO	21-30
O. 29	Missouri	31-14
N. 5	Nebraska	8-14
N. 12	@TEXAS	23-27
N. 19	Iowa State	7-13

Head coach: Mark Mangino,  
4th Year (12-24)

Career Record: 12-24

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 50,071

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 52/23

#### OFFENSE

QB	7 Adam Barmann (6-4, 210, Jr.)
RB	30 Clark Green (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LT	55 Matt Thompson (6-4, 295, Sr.)
LG	77 Bob Whitaker (6-5, 317, Jr.)
C	72 Todd Haselhorst (6-4, 300, So.)
RG	74 David Ochoa (6-4, 280, Jr.)
RT	71 Cesar Rodriguez (6-7, 278, So.)
TE	85 Derek Fine (6-3, 240, So.)
WR	83 Mark Simmons (5-11, 185, Sr.)
WR	86 Marcus Henry (6-4, 195, So.)
WR	22 Brian Murph (6-1, 185, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	97 Jermial Ashley (6-5, 250, Sr.)
DT	90 Tim Allen (6-1, 260, Sr.)
DT	93 James McClinton (6-1, 290, So.)
DE	99 Charlton Keith (6-5, 225, Sr.)
OLB	7 Nick Reid (6-4, 230, Sr.)
ILB	45 Kevin Kane (6-1, 225, Sr.)
OLB	5 Banks Floodman (6-3, 230, Sr.)
CB	3 Charles Gordon (5-11, 177, Jr.)
CB	20 Theo Baines (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	23 Rodney Fowler (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	28 Aqib Talib (6-2, 180, R-Fr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	39 Scott Webb (5-11, 180, So.)
P	15 Kyle Tucker (6-2, 205, So.)





LIMAS SWEED, SE

# TEXAS LONGHORNS



AUSTIN, TEXAS

**2004 Record:** 11-1 overall, 7-1 Big 12 (beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl, 38-37)  
**Stadium:** Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium **Turf:** Grass **Capacity:** 80,082  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.texassports.com

PRESEASON RANK: FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

9 11 11 10 11  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

**Head coach:** Mack Brown, 8th Year (70-19) **Career Record:** 150-88-1  
**Assistant coaches:** Greg Davis (off. coord./QBs), Duane Akina (co-def. coord./def. backs), Gene Chizik (co-def. coord./asst. head coach/LBs), Bruce Chambers (asst. head coach/recruiting coord./TEs), Oscar Giles (def. ends), Bobby Kennedy (recruiting coord./WRs), Mac McWhorter (assoc. head coach/off. line), Ken Rucker (RBs), Mike Tolleson (def. tackles/special teams coord.)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S. 10	@OHIO STATE	
S. 17	Rice	35-13
O. 1	@MISSOURI	28-20
O. 8	Oklahoma	0-12
O. 15	Colorado	31-7
O. 22	Texas Tech	51-21
O. 29	@OKLAHOMA STATE	56-35
N. 5	@BAYLOR	44-14
N. 12	Kansas	27-23
N. 25	@TEXAS A&M	26-13

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 44/16

### OFFENSE

QB	10 Vince Young (6-5, 230, Jr.)
FB	46 Ahmad Hall (5-11, 235, Jr.)
RB	11 Ramonce Taylor (5-11, 195, So.)
LT	73 Jonathan Scott (6-7, 310, Sr.)
LG	64 Kasey Studdard (6-3, 295, Jr.)
C	62 Lyle Sendlein (6-5, 305, Jr.)
RG	72 Will Allen (6-6, 315, Sr.)
RT	63 Justin Blalock (6-4, 329, Jr.)
TE	16 David Thomas (6-3, 245, Sr.)
SE	4 Limas Sweed (6-5, 215, So.)
FL	8 Jordan Shipley (6-0, 184, r-Fr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	80 Tim Crowder (6-4, 255, Jr.)
NT	92 Larry Dobbles (6-2, 285, Sr.)
DT	90 Rodrique Wright (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RE	39 Brian Robison (6-3, 267, Jr.)
SLB	49 Eric Hall (6-2, 245, Sr.)
MLB	2 Aaron Harris (6-0, 235, Sr.)
WLB	40 Robert Killebrew (6-2, 225, So.)
RCB	8 Cedric Griffin (6-2, 193, Sr.)
LCB	5 Tarell Brown (6-0, 185, Jr.)
FS	27 Michael Griffin (6-0, 200, Jr.)
SS	7 Michael Huff (6-1, 205, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	15 David Pino (5-8, 180, Sr.)
P	35 Richmond McGee (6-4, 203, Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Jamaal Charles, RB**  
Joined TB race as soon as he walked on campus.
- Quan Cosby, WR**  
4-year minor leaguer signed with 'Horns in '01.
- Colt McCoy, QB**  
First QB signed by Texas since Vince Young in '02.
- Michael Houston, RB**  
Lone member of '05 class who's already enrolled.
- Harry Melton, RB**  
270-pounder is nephew of NFL's Ray Crckett.

## Orangebloods viewing 2005 season through Rose-colored glasses

**T**hat first week in January shaped up nicely for Texas. First, the Longhorns got a final-play field goal to defeat Michigan in the Rose Bowl. All the controversy over Texas' climb over California in the BCS standings was forgotten for a few hours in Pasadena. The game, and quarterback Vince Young's four-touchdown performance, were that good.

A few days later, Texas tormentor Oklahoma got embarrassed in the Orange Bowl for the national championship. Nope, it doesn't get much better for the Orangebloods.

Now, let's see how Texas handles a little role reversal. The Longhorns are the group that enters the season with no question mark at quarterback, the division favorite and the league's top national-title contender. Oklahoma is No. 2.

With a break or two, Texas could find its way back to the Rose Bowl. This is a program that's been knocking on the door for a while. The Longhorns have posted double-digit victories each of the last four years and Mack Brown is the only coach in the nation to win nine games in each of the past nine seasons.

It almost sounds like the running start Bobby Bowden got before his first championship, or Tom Osborne. The difference was, those coaches also dominated their conferences. For all of Brown's success, none of his teams have won a league title.

So, first things first. The Big 12 South is to the point where if a team is good enough to run the table in conference play, it can play for the national championship. The Longhorns must end a five-year losing streak to the Sooners for that to happen.

This could be the team to do it. Texas is feeling so good about itself, Brown's message entering the season is a fear of complacency.

"One of the really hard things to do is figure out who you are as a team because the dynamic changes every year," Brown says. "We worked harder this past spring more than in past years. We didn't want to seem complacent about winning the Rose Bowl. We wanted to deliver the message that we can go back there and win it [again]."

For that to happen, Young needs to continue his steady climb, and there's no reason to think that won't happen. He rushed for 192 yards and

four touchdowns in the Rose Bowl win against Michigan, two in the fourth quarter, while also passing for 180 yards and a score.

It was an amazing performance, perhaps the best of any player in the postseason, and it kick-started Young's Heisman Trophy campaign.

"If the team does well, he'll have a chance," Brown says.

Young was a difference-maker in many games, but two, on successive weekends, stand out. The Longhorns fell behind Oklahoma State 35-7 at halftime. Brown calmed his team and rallied Texas for a 56-35 victory.

The next week, the Longhorns were about to become upset victims for the ages, falling behind Kansas by 10 with less than five minutes left. Young went 18 yards for one touchdown, and threw the game-winner with 11 seconds to play. The big moment was Young's first-down scramble on fourth-and-18 to keep alive the winning drive.

"We won so many games in the third and fourth quarter we became a very confident team," Young recalls.

A difference for Young this season is no Cedric Benson behind him. Benson rushed for more than 1,000 yards in each of his four seasons and finished as the sixth-leading rusher in NCAA history, and Texas spent the spring seeking to replace him.

It will happen with two backs. Ramonce Taylor, who has played running back and wide receiver, will become the Longhorns' speed back, and another converted receiver, Chris Ogbonnaya, will get first crack at power back. Another candidate there will be freshman Michael Houston, who went through spring drills, and fellow newcomers Jamaal Charles and Henry Melton.

It was a different kind of recruiting class for Brown. He signed only 14 players, the fewest since he's been at Texas, and it was his first ranked outside a consensus top 10. But Brown doesn't seem worried.

"I've gone from Mr. February to 'can't recruit' in three years, so it's funny to see the perception change," Brown says.

Not out of the running back picture is Selvin Young, who was expected to inherit the job until he ran into academic problems and missed spring workouts.

Taylor has big plans for himself. He switched his jersey from No. 25 to No. 11, the number once worn by Ricky Williams and Major Applewhite.





Without Benson, Young will draw more attention, so the development of the running backs and improvement at wide receiver becomes crucial. The go-to receiver appears to be Limas Sweed, who caught 23 passes for 263 yards last season. Redshirt freshman Jordan Shipley, the career receptions leader in Texas prep history, has the best hands of the receiving corps.

Texas had only six pass plays of 40 or more yards—Young caught one of them—and the tight ends caught too many balls. Look for Young to go deep more often and use more play-action, looking to stretch out the passing game.

The offensive line returns four starters: tackles Justin Blalock and Jonathan Scott and guards Will Allen and Kasey Studdard. Blalock and Scott were all-league picks.

Texas will have one of the most experienced defenses in the nation with nine returning starters. Six are seniors. But gone is consensus All-America linebacker Derrick Johnson and the assistant coach who helped Johnson turn in his huge year, Greg Robinson, who became Syracuse's head coach.

Robert Killebrew served as Johnson's backup last season and will get the call, but the leadership duties fall to Aaron Harris, a second-team all-league pick last season. Harris is a hard hitter who came up big in the Rose Bowl with 8.5 tackles to Johnson's 1.5.

"He played with plenty of passion and intensity in the Rose Bowl, and for us to be the defense we want to be that's how he needs to continue playing," Brown says.

## IN PROFILE ... VINCE YOUNG

*Longhorns' quarterback wants to do more than just dazzle this season*

Ask Mack Brown about junior quarterback Vince Young and the Texas Longhorns coach can't wait to share a couple of statistics.

"The thing you have to say about him is he's 17-2 and he's off to a start to be the winningest quarterback in University of Texas history," Brown says. "And we all looked [it] up after the season and he's had a better completion percentage after two years than anybody in school history."

Indeed, Brown has his facts and figures straight. Young, oft-criticized for poor throwing mechanics and for favoring speedy runs over passing patience, defies the many doubters among the Longhorns faithful. And, yes, his 59-percent completion rate after two seasons ranks first, ahead of stalwarts (and predecessors) Chris Simms and Major Applewhite.

The bigger question, of course, is whether his numbers will stack up with Simms and Applewhite after three or four seasons. With all-everything runner Cedric Benson lost to the NFL, one thing is certain: Young will have ample opportunity.

"We feel like we will throw it more than last year," Brown says. "We want to get so we can throw the ball down the field again to the wide receivers, and Vince is so much more ready to do that."

To date, all he's done is win. Even his most persistent critics had to admire Young's dazzling

Taking over for Robinson is Gene Chizik, who moves over from Auburn. The Tigers led the nation in scoring defense last year, which is Chizik's aim for the Longhorns.


"I didn't come in to reinvent the wheel," Chizik says. "They've played great defense here."

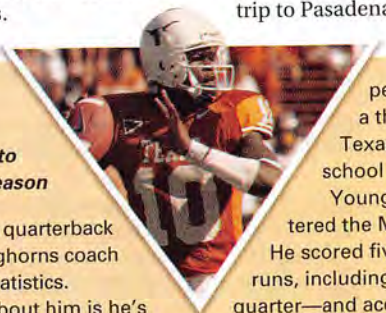
Tackle Rodrique Wright could be the program's next defensive All-American, if it isn't tackle Larry Dibles or strong safety Michael Huff, who will also play some cornerback this fall. Take your pick. They're all excellent.

Starting corners Cedric Griffin and Tarell Brown are back, as are ends Brian Robison and Tim Crowder. Besides Harris, Eric Hall returns at linebacker. Another linebacker candidate is Eric Foreman, who has moved from quarterback.

The player who scored the winning points in the Rose Bowl and will never have to pay for a Shiner Bock beer in Texas again, kicker Dusty Mangum, has moved on. But two-year punter Richmond McGee is back. If Selvin Young gets his grades in order, he's one of the Big 12's top kickoff-return men.

The pieces are in place for a first league championship since the Longhorns won the inaugural title in 1996. The program has won plenty of games and has been to bowls nearly every season. There are plenty of accomplishments to crow about.

But what Texas hasn't done in six years is beat Oklahoma. If that happens this October, the Longhorns might have smooth sailing for a return trip to Pasadena. 



performance in the Rose Bowl, a thrilling 38-37 victory that gave Texas its first BCS bowl win in school history.

Young, the Rose Bowl MVP, shattered the Michigan defense in Pasadena. He scored five touchdowns—four came on runs, including a 60-yarder to start the third quarter—and accounted for 372 total yards.

In many cases, Young escaped two or three would-be tacklers at once, shaking them off by churning his powerful legs and then juking defenders in the open field. The comeback win over the Wolverines—Texas trailed by 10 points in the fourth quarter—capped a string of late-season Longhorn rallies led by Young.

"That was a signature game where everyone in the country could see Vince Young directing the team as the quarterback," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "That was huge. His confidence coming off that will be a monster."

Texas finished the season 11-1, with its lone loss coming against, yes, Oklahoma. The Sooners wound up where the Longhorns want to be: playing for the national championship.

That means Young must have an even bigger year than he did in 2004. He says he's ready.

"The goal is to play at [Heisman winner and USC quarterback] Matt Leinart's level," Young says. "That's where I want to be. He stepped up and led USC even when they had some young guys. Every NCAA quarterback wants to have a year like that."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	TEXAS	OPP
SCORING	423	215
Points Per Game	35.2	35.2
FIRST DOWNS	284	196
Rushing	178	80
Passing	92	99
Penalty	14	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	3590	1289
Yards gained rushing	3796	1615
Yards lost rushing	206	326
Rushing Attempts	615	405
Average Per Rush	5.8	3.2
Average Per Game	299.2	107.4
TDs Rushing	41	12
PASSING YARDAGE	1983	2552
Att-Comp-Int	275-159-11	386-213-13
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.6
Average Per Catch	12.5	12.0
Average Per Game	165.2	212.7
TDs Passing	12	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	5573	3841
Total Plays	890	791
Average Per Play	6.3	4.9
Average Per Game	464.4	320.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	26-507	46-1065
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-198	24-151
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-209	11-157
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.5	23.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.3	6.3
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.1	14.3
FUMBLES-LOST	23-7	22-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	92-711	76-535
Average Per Game	59.2	44.6
PUNTS-YARDS	53-2096	74-3018
Average Per Punt	39.5	40.8
Net punt average	36.7	38.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:08	27:52
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/171	49/175
3rd-Down Pct	46%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	10/14	12/28
4th-Down Pct	71%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	22-138	11-85
MISC YARDS	12	98
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	55	26
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-17	12-15
PAT-ATTEMPTS	52-54	32-35
ATTENDANCE	498566	221549
Games/Avg Per Game	6/83094	4/55387
Neutral Site Games		2/86528

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Texas	123	102	112	86	—	423
Opponents	54	85	20	56	—	215

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Vince Young

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	128.37	250-148-11	59.2	1849	12	154.1

#### Chance Mock

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	74.46	21-9-0	42.9	79	0	13.2

### RUSHING

Cedric Benson	12	326	1834	5.6	19	152.8
Vince Young	12	167	1079	6.5	14	89.9
Ramonice Taylor	10	28	284	10.1	1	28.4

### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tony Jeffery	12	33	437	13.2	3	36.4
Bo Scalfie	12	26	348	13.4	2	29.0
David Thomas	12	25	430	17.2	5	35.8

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Derrick Johnson	12	73	57	130
Aaron Harris	12	65	53	118
Michael Huff	12	50	23	73

### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Tim Crowder	12	4.5	28
Derrick Johnson	12	2.0	15
Aaron Harris	12	2.0	11

### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Michael Huff	2	14	7.0	0
Tarell Brown	2	31	15.5	0
Cedric Griffin	2	29	14.5	0





TRAVIS WILSON, WR



# OKLAHOMA SOONERS



NORMAN, OKLA

2004 Record: 12-1 overall, 8-0 Big 12 (lost to Southern California in the Orange Bowl, 55-19)  
Stadium: Gaylord Family - Oklahoma Memorial Stadium  
Official athletic Web site: [www.soonersports.com](http://www.soonersports.com)

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 82,112

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVEYEAR WINS TREND

13 11 12 12 12  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Bob Stoops, 6th Year (67-12) Career Record: 67-12

Assistant coaches: Brent Venables (assoc. head coach/def. coord./LBs), Bobby Jack Wright (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./def. backs/recruiting coord.), Chuck Long (off. coord./QB), Cale Gundy (RBs), Jackie Shipp (def. line), Kevin Sumlin (TEs), Kevin Wilson (off. line/run game coord.), Darrell Wyatt (WRs), Chris Wilson (def. ends)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	TCU	
S. 10	Tulsa	
S. 17	@UCLA	
O. 1	Kansas State	31-21
O. 8	@TEXAS	12-0
O. 15	@KANSAS	41-10
O. 22	Baylor	35-0
O. 29	@NEBRASKA	30-3
N. 5	Oklahoma State	38-35
N. 12	Texas A&M	42-35
N. 19	@TEXAS TECH	28-13

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 40/24

### OFFENSE

QB	7	Rhett Bomar (6-4, 208, r-Fr.)
FB	38	J.D. Runnels (6-1, 246, Sr.)
RB	28	Adrian Peterson (6-2, 210, So.)
LT	77	Davin Joseph (6-4, 312, Sr.)
LG	70	Kelvin Chaisson (6-5, 303, Sr.)
C	52	Chris Bush (6-4, 284, Sr.)
RG	64	Chris Chester (6-4, 278, Jr.)
RT	69	Akim Millington (6-6, 300, So.)
TE	89	James Moses (6-3, 242, Sr.)
WR	4	Travis Wilson (6-3, 216, Sr.)
WR	3	Jejuan Rankins (5-11, 180, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	92	Larry Birdine (6-5, 251, So.)
DT	94	Dusty Dvoracek (6-3, 294, Sr.)
DT	68	Carl Pendleton (6-6, 277, So.)
DE	58	Calvin Thibodeaux (6-1, 249, Sr.)
OLB	42	Rufus Alexander (6-1, 225, Jr.)
ILB	46	Zach Latimer (6-3, 231, Jr.)
OLB	44	Clint Ingram (6-2, 241, Jr.)
CB	24	Marcus Walker (5-11, 180, So.)
CB	13	Eric Bassey (6-1, 199, Sr.)
FS	16	Lewis Baker (6-3, 210, So.)
SS	14	Brett Bowers (6-1, 193, r-Fr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	32	Garrett Hartley (5-9, 175, So.)
P	17	Cody Freeby (6-3, 217, So.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- DeMarcus Granger, DT  
Stoops: 6-2, 320-pounder has "raw strength."
- C.J. Ah You, DE  
Juno transfer who began his career at BYU.
- Malcolm Kelly, WR  
Door is open for Kelly to make an impact.
- Brandon Braxton, OL  
Signed in '04, but didn't qualify academically.
- Reggie Smith, S  
Should contend for a starting job at free safety.

## Sooners eager to erase painful memories of Orange Bowl shellacking from Southern Cal

**I**t was an offseason like none other in the Bob Stoops era.

The Sooners have spent springs and summers celebrating a national championship, partying after bowl victories and reasonably explaining away a couple of postseason losses.

But nothing compares to the pain and humiliation absorbed after last year's shellacking by Southern Cal in the Orange Bowl.

The 55-19 drubbing was the worst loss by a Stoops team. The only thing comparable was the four-touchdown defeat to Kansas State in the Big 12 title game two years ago, and the Sooners delivered on a vow to make things right a year later by stomping Colorado in the same game.

But this? Where did this come from? Was Oklahoma truly six touchdowns worse than the Trojans?

And if the loss itself wasn't bad enough, Southern Cal quarterback Matt Leinart said a week after the game that the Sooners were begging to get off the field. He told a Los Angeles radio station that Oklahoma players were telling Southern Cal to run the ball so the clock wouldn't stop and the game would reach a quicker conclusion.

Whoa.

"All the responsibility for that game comes to me," Stoops says. "We didn't get it done."

Now comes the response, and this should be a fascinating season because several conditions have changed in Norman.

Gone is prime-time quarterback Jason White. He'll be remembered as a decorated hero, a Heisman winner and finalist who overcame two knee surgeries and never lost to Texas.

Also departed are several other starters who were some of the top players in the college game. Offensive tackle Jammal Brown won the Outland Trophy. Wide receiver Mark Clayton and defensive end Dan Cody were All-Americans. Center Vince Carter and defensive backs Donte Nicholson, Brodney Pool and Antonio Perkins made somebody's all-conference team.

Ten who played for Oklahoma last season were selected in the NFL Draft (but not White). No school had more picks.

The departures cast a spotlight on recruiting, and the Sooners came through with a class widely

ranked among the top five in the country. The unusual aspect of this class: It's not all Oklahoma and Texas high school kids. The Sooners signed players from 13 states.

"This is our most diverse and national class," Stoops says. "The continual national exposure with television and championship games has generated a lot of attention for this program and enabled us to attract prospects from all over the country."

Still, there hasn't been this much uncertainty since Stoops' rookie season. The difference between now and then is that several years of top-rated recruiting classes have been stacked up on the runway waiting for takeoff. Now is the time for many of these Sooners.

And there's running back Adrian Peterson, the nation's best college football player this side of Southern Cal.

As Peterson's amazing freshman season was unfolding, he seemed to expand some circle of greatness. Texans who saw him romp for more than 5,000 yards and 54 touchdowns in two seasons at Palestine High measured him against Tyler's Earl Campbell, Hooks' Billy Sims and Sealy's Eric Dickerson.

Oklahomans are saving a place for him beside the likes of Sims, Greg Pruitt, Joe Washington and Steve Owens.

Football followers from all over compared his season to other freshman wonders, such as Georgia's Herschel Walker, Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett and Ohio State's Maurice Clarett.

Peterson deserved all the praise. He finished with the NCAA rushing record for freshmen with 1,925 yards and ranked sixth in the NCAA at 148.1 yards per game. His 339 rushing attempts led college football, and Peterson's runner-up Heisman finish was the best ever for a freshman.

Nobody who has seen Peterson's uncommon blend of sprinter's speed on a linebacker-sized body of 6-feet-2 and 210 pounds has been accused of reckless hyperbole.

"In my 10 years of coaching I've never seen anybody like him," Oklahoma offensive coordinator Chuck Long says. "He makes it look easy, but it's not easy."

Little in Peterson's life away from football has ever come easy. His father is in prison. His brother





was killed by a drunk driver. Peterson has survived some troubled years that interrupted his career and cost him at least one high school season. He's learned work ethic and maturity, but he never had to learn football.

Now, Oklahoma will need Peterson more than last season. He's not the Sooners' other weapon. He's the man.

Which provided a good news/bad news scenario for Oklahoma and Peterson during the spring. Peterson didn't participate after shoulder surgery. He probably wouldn't have gotten many reps anyway. The Sooners know what he can do.

But Peterson is so good, his pace so different from even an above-average back, it would have been productive for his Oklahoma teammates to work with him. He gets to the handoff faster and bursts through the hole quicker than any back in the college game. The Sooners are auditioning three quarterbacks and all would have benefited by his presence.

Oklahoma has 30 preseason practices to work it out, and to find the quarterback. Spring wrapped up without Stoops naming a successor. The finalists are redshirt freshman Rhett Bomar, third-year sophomore Tommy Grady and fourth-year junior Paul Thompson. The showdown is likely between Bomar and Thompson. Grady had the worst of it in Oklahoma's final two spring scrimmages and had asked coaches to make a decision regarding him sooner than later to keep open transfer options.

If it is Bomar vs. Thompson, Stoops has a difficult call.

Bomar is the highest-profile quarterback recruit in the Stoops era, and perhaps Oklahoma history. When

he arrived two years ago with Peterson, it was assumed he would rise to the starting role after a redshirt season. Bomar has a wonderful arm and made several big plays during spring scrimmages. The offense operated the most efficiently while he called signals.

But Thompson may be the players' choice. He's spent three years as a reserve and many believe his time as come. Thompson would be the safe, even the more popular, choice. Bomar has more upside.

Other positions are more settled. Behind Peterson is Kejuan Jones, who started four games as a sophomore but has settled nicely into his reserve role. Making noise at running back in the spring was 5-7 Jacob Gutierrez.

Eleven of wide receiver Travis Wilson's 50 receptions went for touchdowns last year. Developing a second go-to wideout is a key.

Davin Joseph is set at left tackle, Kelvin Chaisson and Chris Bush, who split time at guard, are back, but Bush could be moved to center. Another possibility there is Chris Chester, a converted tight end.

Larry Birdine started only one game at defensive end last year, but was an impact player in the rotation. He tied for the league lead in sacks with eight.

The best news on defense is the return of Dusty Dvoracek, who was kicked off the team last year after two games as offseason troubles started piling up. He was a first-team All-Big 12 tackle as a junior, when he recorded seven sacks.

Dvoracek could miss the season's first month after tearing his left bicep in the spring game.

Recovery from the surgery was expected to take up to five months.



so sleek, the gears are unbelievable and they go from zero to 60 faster than anything you know."

All of which describes the 6-foot-2, 210-pound Peterson, who runs a 4.4 time in the 40. Heading into his sophomore season in Norman, Peterson must cope with his own sublime standards.

It will be hard to improve on 2004, when he set an NCAA freshman record with 1,925 yards rushing, eclipsing current NFL player and former Wisconsin star Ron Dayne's 1996 mark. Peterson also scored 15 TDs and broke Oklahoma's single-season rushing record for a runner of any class.

"To make it to the level that he was last year, I'd have to say that I don't think I could have anticipated that," Stoops says. "We did believe that he would make a strong impact. He did that and more."

Perhaps most terrifying for opponents, Peterson proved he can turn on the jets—he ripped off a number of lengthy gains last season, including a jaw-dropping 80-yarder through the heart of the Oklahoma State defense—as well as hammer away for tough yards inside.

Now Stoops wants A.D. to beef up his receiving skills and improve his pass protection. (Peterson had an injured shoulder surgically repaired soon after his freshman season ended.) Still, even OU coaches acknowledge Peterson as a can't-miss NFL prospect.

—Erik Spanberg

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OKLAHOMA	OPP
SCORING	452	219
Points Per Game	34.8	16.8
FIRST DOWNS	310	203
Rushing	147	75
Passing	144	110
Penalty	19	18
RUSHING YARDAGE	2709	1230
Yards gained rushing	2993	1636
Yards lost rushing	284	406
Rushing Attempts	565	402
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.1
Average Per Game	208.4	94.6
TDs Rushing	22	10
PASSING YARDAGE	3298	2657
Att-Comp-Int	406-268-9	410-223-8
Average Per Pass	8.1	6.5
Average Per Catch	12.3	11.9
Average Per Game	253.7	204.4
TDs Passing	36	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	6007	3887
Total Plays	971	812
Average Per Play	6.2	4.8
Average Per Game	462.1	299.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-534	35-553
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	35-316	22-95
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	8-120	9-152
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.1	15.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	9.0	4.3
INT RETURN AVERAGE	15.0	16.9
FUMBLES-LOST	20-9	18-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	85-733	83-652
Average Per Game	56.4	50.2
PUNTS-YARDS	53-2184	84-3493
Average Per Punt	41.2	41.6
Net punt average	39.4	37.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:11	26:49
3RD-DOWN CONV.	108/200	66/182
3rd-Down Pct	54%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/17	8/17
4th-Down Pct	71%	47%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-258	9-73
MISC YARDS	28	8
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	61	28
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-17	8-11
PAT-ATTEMPTS	57-60	27-28
ATTENDANCE	507189	214454
Games/Avg Per Game	6/84532	4/53614
Neutral Site Games		3/73210

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oklahoma	87	161	121	83	—	452
Opponents	49	75	44	51	—	219

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Jason White

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	159.42	390-255-9	65.4	3205	35	246.5

#### Tommy Grady

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	147.09	14-12-0	85.7	63	1	12.6

### RUSHING

Adrian Peterson	13	339	1925	5.7	15	148.1
Kejuan Jones	12	129	513	4.0	5	42.8
D.J. Wolfe	13	25	107	4.3	0	8.2

### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mark Clayton	13	66	876	13.3	8	67.4
Travis Wilson	13	50	660	13.2	11	50.8
Brandon Jones	13	27	345	12.8	3	26.5

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Brodney Pool	13	65	27	92
Lance Mitchell	13	45	33	78
Rufus Alexander	13	49	25	74

### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Dan Cody	13	10.0	66
Jonathan Jackson	13	8.0	55
Larry Birdine	13	7.0	34

### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Brodney Pool	2	42	21.0	0
Lawrence Dampier	1	31	31.0	0
Brandon Shelby	1	0	0.0	0





REGGIE McNEAL, QB

# TEXAS A&M AGGIES



COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 5-3 Big 12 (lost to Tennessee in the Cotton Bowl, 38-7)

**Stadium:** Kyle Field

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 82,600

**Official athletic Web site:** <http://sports.tamu.edu/>

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Dennis Franchione, 3rd Year (11-12) **Career Record:** 86-67-0 (Division I-A)  
**Assistant coaches:** Kenith Pope (asst. head coach/WRs), Les Koenning Jr. (off. coord/QBs), Carl Torbush (def. coord./LBs), Stan Eggen (def. line), Lee Fobbs (RBs), Jim Bob Helduser (off. line), Melvin Smith (safeties), Chris Thurmond (CBs), Mark Tommerdahl (TEs/special teams coord.)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@CLEMSON	27-6
S. 17	Southern Methodist	
S. 24	Texas State	
O. 1	Baylor	34-35 (OT)
O. 8	@COLORADO	29-26 (OT)
O. 15	Oklahoma State	36-20
O. 22	@KANSAS STATE	42-30
O. 29	Iowa State	34-3
N. 5	@TEXAS TECH	32-25 (OT)
N. 12	@OKLAHOMA	35-42
N. 25	Texas	13-26

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 30/24

### OFFENSE

QB	1	Reggie McNeal (6-2, 306, Sr.)
FB	24	Chris Alexander (5-11, 244, So.)
TB	25	Courtney Lewis (6-0, 195, Jr.)
QT	75	Jami Hightower (6-4, 355, Sr.)
QG	64	Kirk Elder (6-4, 305, So.)
C	51	Chris Yoder (6-3, 304, So.)
SG	76	Aldo De La Garza (6-4, 307, Sr.)
ST	54	Corey Clark (6-6, 307, So.)
TE	88	Boone Stutz (6-6, 256, Sr.)
WR	17	L'Tydrick Riley (6-2, 228, Sr.)
WR	9	DeQawn Mobley (6-2, 201, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	92	Chris Harrington (6-5, 272, So.)
DT	97	Johnny Jolly (6-4, 309, Sr.)
DT	85	Red Bryant (6-4, 312, So.)
DE	89	Jason Jack (6-4, 277, So.)
SLB	31	Archie McDaniel (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	10	Justin Warren (6-3, 231, Jr.)
ROV	57	Lee Foliaki (6-2, 238, Sr.)
CB	20	Broderick Newton (5-11, 189, So.)
CB	4	Danny Gorrer (6-0, 178, r-Fr.)
FS	19	Jaxson Appel (6-10, 198, Sr.)
SS	28	Japhus Brown (5-11, 195, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Todd Pegram (6-0, 197, Sr.)
P	27	Richie Bean (6-0, 180, r-Fr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Martellus Bennett, TE**  
At 6-6, 240, will also play basketball for Aggies.
- Michael Bennett, DL**  
Martellus' older brother enrolled last December.
- Jorvorskie Lane, RB**  
Aggies need 235-pounder to provide power at RB.
- Justin Brantley, P**  
The top-rated punter/kicker in Texas prep ranks.
- Howard Morrow, WR**  
Has 144 catches for 29 TDs the last two seasons.

## Franchione's Aggies ready to take next step up the Big 12 ladder behind senior QB McNeal

**Y**ear No. 2 in the Dennis Franchione era opened and closed on sour notes, but there was plenty to like in between, which is why the mood is upbeat heading into this season.

The Aggies improved from 4-8 to 7-5 and returned to the upper half of the Big 12 echelon. There were bumps along the way, like the losses to two superior teams, Utah and Tennessee, that book-ended the season, and the head-scratching loss to Baylor.

But a six-game winning streak proved A&M was heading in the right direction, and that's expected to continue this season. There may not be enough to win the division, but a first-place finish isn't out of the question with 17 players who started at least eight games returning.

A&M's biggest asset is quarterback Reggie McNeal, the senior who has emerged as one of the nation's top players.

McNeal burst onto the scene as a freshman, leading A&M to an upset of top-ranked Oklahoma. He faltered as a sophomore while adjusting to the system of a new coaching staff, but rebounded last year by throwing for a school-record 2,791 yards and rushing for 718 yards and eight touchdowns.

McNeal is being asked to become more of the team's vocal leader in his senior season. Last year, the Aggies looked to wide receiver and return specialist Terrence Murphy for inspiration.

"When he started talking, even I got quiet," McNeal recalls. "That's how much I respected him."

Now that respect will come McNeal's way.

"It's on me to step up and play that role," he says.

This being a veteran team should ease McNeal's responsibility.

On offense, four linemen—guards Aldo De La Garza and Kirk Elder along with tackle Jami Hightower and center Chris Yoder—return. The missing link is all-conference tackle Geoff Hangartner, but all of the other linemen collected some kind of all-league recognition a year ago. This group is as solid as any in the Big 12.

It needs to be, because the Aggies have to improve their running game. An injury to



JOHNNY JOLLY, DT

Courtney Lewis slowed the process last year. Lewis gained 742 after a 1,000-yard season in 2003. He's back at full strength and a freshman, Jorvorskie Lane, all 235 pounds of him, will get a look this fall. Franchione says he's like to add 20 yards to the Aggies' 167-yard per game average last season without a drop in the passing game.

The loss of Murphy hurts more than in the leadership realm. He averaged 65 yards per game in receptions and

was among the league's best kick-return specialists. Ready to step in is Jason Carter, who caught 36 passes last season. But Carter's eligibility rests on his success in summer school classes.

If Carter doesn't make it, L'Tydrick Riley had an impressive spring and can become a go-to receiver.

Freshman Martellus Bennett, considered the top prep prospect in Texas, will get every opportunity to become the Aggies' starting tight end.

The concern on defense is cornerback, where A&M lost both starters. Erik Mayes didn't start last season but was the team's third-leading tackler and figures to compete with fast redshirt freshman Danny Gorrer for one spot. Broderick Newton leads on the other side.

The other lost starter, end Mike Montgomery, was the heart and soul of last season's defense, but plenty of veterans are prepared to step up. Free safety Jaxson Appel will be a four-year starter and has led the team in tackles each of the past two seasons.

Third-year starting tackle Johnny Jolly is coming off his best season. Tackle Red Bryant was a first-team Freshman All-America choice. Same for defensive end Jason Jack.

Justin Warren and Archie McDaniel got all the starts at middle linebacker, while Lee Foliaki and Renueel Greene each got eight starts at outside 'backer. Strong safety Japhus Brown led the Aggies with three interceptions.

Kicker Todd Pegram had one of those dream games last season, booting five field goals to beat Colorado, including the tying and winning kicks in overtime. He's made 73.2 percent of his kicks in three seasons.





**2004 Record:** 8-4 overall, 5-3 Big 12 (beat California in the Holiday Bowl, 45-31)  
**Stadium:** Jones SBC Stadium  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.texas-tech.collegesports.com

**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 51,389



**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**



**PRESEASON RANK:**

**4**

**Head coach:** Mike Leach, 6th Year (39-25) **Career Record:** 39-25

**Assistant coaches:** Bill Bedenbaugh (off. line), Dave Brown (secondary), Sonny Dykes (co-off. coord./WRs), Dana Holgerson (co-off. coord./inside receivers), Carlos Mainord (safeties), Ruffin McNeill (asst. head coach), Charlie Sadler (def. ends), Lyle Setencich (def. coord./LBs), Seth Littrell (RBs)



TAUREAN HENDERSON, RB

# Another talented senior takes the reins at quarterback, but improving defense could be the story in Lubbock

**N**ame the only Big 12 school with a winning overall record in all nine years of conference play?

Yep, Texas Tech.

And thank you very much Kansas State and Nebraska, for posing losing records in 2004 and falling from the list.

But for a program that goes to bowl games every year, expectations have been relatively low in Lubbock. Hey, postseason play is wonderful, especially when it happens as consistently as it does at Tech, but that's as far as it goes.

The Red Raiders have finished second three times in nine Big 12 seasons, once since 1999. They're always competitive, but a shot at the top is difficult when Oklahoma and Texas must be scaled.

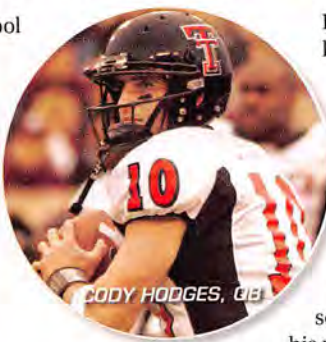
The Sooners and Longhorns are favored once again, but Tech enters this season with a different feeling. Maybe this is the year for the Red Raiders.

Why the optimism? Tech's resounding victory over fourth-ranked California in the Holiday Bowl was one of the most significant triumphs in school history. Tech finished 8-4 and climbed into the final polls for the first time since 1995. With 16 returning starters, the program is as confident as it has ever been.

"That game proved that with a lot of hard work anything can be accomplished," halfback Danny Amendola told reporters during spring workouts. "We play some good teams, like Oklahoma and Texas. Some may not pick us to beat them, but maybe there are few more surprises in the works."

For that to happen, Tech has to develop its next 4,000-yard quarterback. That shouldn't be a problem since the previous three—Kliff Kingsbury, B.J. Symons and Sonnie Cumbie—led the nation in passing in each of the last three years.

Symons and Cumbie didn't start until their senior seasons, and that appears to be the case for this season's favorite, senior Cody Hodges. He emerged from spring practice as the starter and fits the profile of the latest run of Tech throwers.



CODY HODGES, QB

Hodges has been a reserve the last two seasons, absorbing the intricacies of the Tech offense.

He completed 20 of 26 passes for 237 yards in the spring game. Although coach Mike Leach won't name a starter until fall camp, he says Hodges is the favorite. His top competitor is redshirt freshman Graham Harrell, who missed the spring scrimmage with a cracked bone in his right leg.

Tech is one of a few schools where a quarterback change doesn't slow the offense, and the Red Raiders will continue to churn this season with weapons like Taurean Henderson and Jarrett Hicks.

Henderson, a senior running back with 236 career receptions, will become the program's leader in that category with 24 this season. He has also rushed for 2,369 yards in his career and found the end zone 49 times.

Hicks, a wide receiver, caught 76 passes and for a school-record 13 touchdown receptions. He had nine catches and two touchdowns against California.

Guard Manuel Ramirez and tackle E.J. Whitley return on the offensive line.

Tech developed depth on defense in the spring because of injuries to projected starters. The spring also allowed Vincent Meeks to adjust after his move from free safety to strong safety. The move was made to get Dwayne Slay into the starting lineup.

Along the line, end Seth Nitschmann and tackles Chris Hudler and Dek Blake are back, along with linebackers John Saldi and Brock Stratton.

Tech's defense improved tremendously last season under coordinator Lyle Setencich. In 2003, the Red Raiders ranked 100th or higher on all four major defensive lists. Last year, Tech ranked 15th in pass defense, 46th in total defense, 67th in scoring defense and 77th in rush defense.

When a team averages 36 points and 491 yards per game like Tech did last year, a "Steel Curtain" defense isn't needed. Just a competent one. That's what the Red Raiders were last year, and a little more improvement this season could push them closer to the top of the Big 12.

**2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	Florida International	
S. 17	Sam Houston State	
S. 24	Indiana State	
O. 1	Kansas	31-30
O. 8	@NEBRASKA	70-10
O. 15	Kansas State	35-25
O. 22	@TEXAS	21-51
O. 29	@BAYLOR	42-17
N. 5	Texas A&M	25-32 (OT)
N. 12	@OKLAHOMA STATE	31-15
N. 19	Oklahoma	13-28

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 16

Lettermen returning/lost: 47/22

**OFFENSE**

QB	10	Cody Hodges (6-1, 211, Sr.)
RB	19	Taurean Henderson (5-10, 205, Sr.)
HB	20	Danny Amendola (5-11, 174, So.)
LT	69	Glenn January (6-7, 296, Jr.)
LG	62	Bryan Kegans (6-5, 290, Sr.)
C	73	Brandon Jones (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RG	63	Manuel Ramirez (6-4, 333, Jr.)
RT	75	E.J. Whitley (6-6, 293, Sr.)
WR	88	Jarrett Hicks (6-4, 209, Jr.)
WR	86	L.A. Reed (6-2, 189, r-Fr.)
WR	8	Joel Filani (6-3, 214, Jr.)

**DEFENSE**

LE	92	Seth Nitschmann (6-4, 257, Jr.)
NT	93	Chris Hudler (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RT	51	Dek Blake (6-6, 260, Sr.)
RE	96	Keyunta Dawson (6-2, 259, Jr.)
SLB	5	Josh Saldi (6-5, 239, Sr.)
MLB	45	Brock Stratton (5-11, 231, Jr.)
WLB	42	Fletcher Session (6-0, 226, Jr.)
LCB	36	Antonio Huffman (6-0, 180, Jr.)
RCB	26	Khalid Naziruddin (5-10, 180, Sr.)
FS	3	Dwayne Slay (6-3, 215, Sr.)
SS	1	Vincent Meeks (6-0, 206, Sr.)

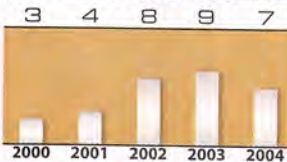
**SPECIALISTS**

PK	30	Alex Trlica (5-11, 175, So.)
P	22	Alex Reyes (6-1, 226, Jr.)

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

- McKiner Dixon, DT**  
Top 20 tackle prospect had 12 sacks last season.
- Louis Vasquez, OL**  
Potential LT allowed no sacks during his sr. year.
- Todd Walker, WR**  
Ex-QB has worked with WRs since arriving in Jan.
- Edward Britton, RB**  
Rushed for 2,172 yards at El Paso Montwood.
- Chris Todd, QB**  
Threw for nearly 11,000 yards as Tennessee prep.



**OKLAHOMA STATE****COWBOYS****2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 4-4 Big 12*(lost to Ohio State in the Alamo Bowl, 33-7)*Official athletic Web site: [www.okstate.com](http://www.okstate.com)**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Montana State	
S. 10	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
S. 17	Arkansas State	
O. 1	Colorado	42-14
O. 8	Missouri	20-17
O. 15	@TEXAS A&M	20-36
O. 22	@IOWA STATE	36-7
O. 29	Texas	35-56
N. 5	@OKLAHOMA	35-38
N. 12	Texas Tech	15-31
N. 19	@BAYLOR	49-21

**Head coach:** Mike Gundy,  
1st Year (0-0)**Career Record:** 0-0**Stadium:** Boone Pickens Stadium**Turf:** Artificial**Capacity:** 48,000**PROJECTED STARTERS**Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 56/24**OFFENSE**

QB	8	Donovan Woods (6-2, 215, So.)
FB	37	Shawn Willis (6-1, 255, Sr.)
RB	29	Mike Hamilton (6-1, 230, So.)
LT	71	Charlie Johnson (6-4, 280, Sr.)
LG	66	Corey Curtis (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	63	David Washington (6-4, 275, r-Fr.)
RG	75	Corey Hilliard (6-5, 300, Jr.)
RT	78	Kellen Davis (6-5, 290, Sr.)
TE	87	Brandon Pettigrew (6-5, 230, r-Fr.)
WR	84	D'Juan Woods (6-1, 195, Jr.)
WR	24	Luke Frazier (6-0, 205, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	50	Darnell Smith (6-0, 260, Jr.)
DT	96	Ryan McBean (6-5, 275, Jr.)
DT	51	Xavier Lawson-Kennedy (6-1, 310, Jr.)
RE	97	Marque Fountain (6-1, 255, Jr.)
LB	99	Lawrence Pinson (6-1, 240, Sr.)
LB	12	Paul Duren (6-1, 240, Sr.)
LB	41	Pagitte McGee (6-1, 235, Sr.)
LCB	4	Daniel McLemore (5-7, 160, Sr.)
RCB	20	Vernon Grant (5-9, 195, Jr.)
FS	23	Jamie Thompson (6-0, 190, Sr.)
SS	10	Thomas Wright (5-11, 185, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	47	Jason Ricks (6-1, 180, So.)
P	57	Bruce Redden (5-9, 183, Fr.)

It came as no shock that Les Miles didn't wrap up his career with Oklahoma State. Talk of Miles moving on started with the first of three straight bowl years in 2002. Most believed Michigan, his alma mater, would be the destination. And it may be, but Miles will have to win at LSU first.

The replacement search didn't take long. Assistant head coach and former OSU quarterback Mike Gundy got the call and the changes were immediate. On offense, the Cowboys changed to a no-huddle spread attack taught by new offensive coordinator Larry Fedora, who came from Florida.

New defensive coordinator Vance Bedford, most recently of the Chicago Bears, installed a 4-3.

With the changes came the usual amount of adjustment.

"But as spring practice progressed, our players did a good job picking up the systems, getting more comfortable," Gundy says. "I saw us starting to react more than think."

Like so many Big 12 schools, Oklahoma State goes into fall camp unsure of its starting quarterback. Three are in the mix.

Bobby Reid was penciled in as a starter for 2004, but a shoulder injury suffered last spring ended his freshman season. In stepped Donovan Woods, the younger brother of former OSU wide receiver Rashaun Woods and current end D'Juan Woods, and he guided the team to a 7-5 record.

Also in the mix is Al Pena, a reserve who played well during spring workouts. The competition could carry into the season, and the Cowboys could play more than one quarterback. It happened at Florida two years ago under Fedora when Ingle Martin and Chris Leak shared the role early on before Leak took control.

"It will be whatever works best for this football team," Fedora says.

Whoever calls signals, you can bet the Cowboys will be flinging it more than in recent years. Last season, Oklahoma State averaged 17 passes per game. Fedora's offense at Florida averaged exactly double that number.

The Cowboys will miss running back Vernand Morency, who left for the NFL after a 1,454-yard season and was a third-round pick.

**BAYLOR****BEARS****2004 Record:** 3-8 overall, 1-7 Big 12Official athletic Web site: [www.baylorbears.com](http://www.baylorbears.com)**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@SMU	
S. 10	Samford	
S. 17	@ARMY	
O. 1	@TEXAS A&M	35-34 (OT)
O. 8	@IOWA STATE	25-26
O. 15	Nebraska	27-59
O. 22	@OKLAHOMA	0-35
O. 29	Texas Tech	17-42
N. 5	Texas	14-44
N. 12	@MISSOURI	10-30
N. 19	Oklahoma State	21-49

**Head coach:** Guy Morriss,  
3rd Year (6-17)**Career Record:** 15-31**Stadium:** Floyd Casey Stadium**Turf:** Grass**Capacity:** 50,000**PROJECTED STARTERS**Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/18**OFFENSE**

QB	11	Shawn Bell (6-1, 207, Jr.)
FB	47	Damon Dotson (5-9, 207, Jr.)
TB	17	Paul Mosley (6-3, 230, Jr.)
LT	67	Travis Farst (6-7, 329, Jr.)
LG	77	Lequalan McDonald (6-5, 349, Sr.)
C	50	Will Blaylock (6-2, 308, Jr.)
RG	76	Yancy Boatner (6-4, 336, Jr.)
RT	68	Nick Pace (6-3, 270, So.)
TE	81	Mike Miller (6-3, 245, So.)
WR	7	Dominique Zeigler (6-3, 180, Jr.)
WR	1	Trent Shelton (6-2, 206, Jr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	90	Marcus Foreman (6-2, 239, Jr.)
DT	99	M.T. Robinson (6-1, 294, Jr.)
DT	92	Michael Gary (6-3, 300, Sr.)
DE	95	Montez Murphy (6-6, 265, Sr.)
LB	34	Colin Allred (6-2, 245, Sr.)
LB	16	Jamaal Harper (6-0, 228, Sr.)
OS	18	Willie Andrews (5-10, 190, Sr.)
CB	38	Alton Widemon (5-11, 180, So.)
CB	6	Anthony Arline (6-2, 193, Jr.)
FS	21	Maurice Lane (5-11, 190, Sr.)
OS	15	Maurice Linguist (5-10, 204, Jr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	43	Ryan Havens (5-10, 192, Jr.)
P	37	Daniel Sepulveda (6-3, 22, Jr.)

If it weren't for bad luck ...

Baylor went into spring workouts with quality depth at quarterback for the first time in coach Guy Morriss's three years. So what happens?

Sophomore Terrance Parks, who was having a terrific spring, broke the index finger on his right (throwing) hand and tore a ligament requiring surgery and a two-month absence. This after 2004 opening-game starter Dane King transferred to a Division II program.

"We went from good depth to [having] one standing," Morriss says.

The program turned up the search for a junior-college quarterback. Meanwhile, Shawn Bell will be the starter by default. But Bell has delivered before. He was the starter when the Bears knocked off Texas A&M last season.

That victory over the Aggies gave Baylor two quality league triumphs in two years (Colorado in 2003) and proof that the Bears—when everything is going right—can compete in the Big 12. With more depth this season and several transfers from Division I-A programs, Baylor looks to inch ahead even more.

Progress will come if Baylor continues to improve on the front lines. The offensive line should be its best in years. Center Will Blaylock, a transfer from Tulane, leads the group. Nick Pace was the team's best lineman two years ago, but missed last year with a back injury.

Three other transfers who sat out last season are set to go: tight end Jordan Adams (New Mexico), line-backer Nick Moore (Georgia Tech) and cornerback Alton Widemon (Tulane).

"They're all good players and will end up playing major roles," Morriss says.

A key to the Bears will be turnover ratio. Baylor finished 113th in the nation and last in the Big 12 last year in that important statistic.

Safety Maurice Lane led the Big 12 in solo tackles with 77, and if he doesn't have as many this season the defense will have improved.

Baylor's best weapon is punter Daniel Sepulveda, the Ray Guy Award winner. He was the program's first all-conference player since 1996. No one knows exactly how many more points the Bears would have surrendered last season had Sepulveda not pinned opponents deep and often.



# CONFERENCE USA PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:



## Games to watch:

- >> **Memphis at Southern Miss**, Nov. 19  
Could be for Eastern Division title.
- >> **UTEP at Memphis**, Oct. 1  
Miners play only two C-USA games at non-Texas sites
- >> **Southern Miss at UAB**, Oct. 21  
ESPN will televise Friday night showdown.

official conference website:  
[www.conferenceusa.com](http://www.conferenceusa.com)

## Will the Price be right for Miners in first C-USA campaign?

By Jimmie Tramel  
Tulsa World

First things first: Exactly who is in Conference USA nowadays?

The collegiate landscape shifted again, leaving Memphis, Southern Miss, Houston, UAB, Tulane and East Carolina as the remaining C-USA members from last season.

Six new tenants were added. SMU, Rice, Tulsa, and UTEP left the Western Athletic Conference to come aboard. Marshall and Central Florida said goodbye to the Mid-American Conference and hello to C-USA.

The reconstructed league was split into two six-team geographical divisions. The East and West champs will meet in a postseason championship game and it will be staged at the site of the school with the best winning percentage in conference games.

Five C-USA members—Memphis, Southern Miss, UAB, Marshall and UTEP—played in bowl games last season and the league's balance of power would seem to be in the East since UTEP is the only bowl qualifier in the West. The Miners are, no surprise, the favorite to win the West, but parity could reign supreme in both divisions.

The East has the look of a three-team race—and possibly a four-team race if Marshall is able to overcome the loss of key players and head coach Bob Pruett, who retired before spring drills. Southern Miss, Memphis and UAB all seem equipped to make a run at a division title.

After UTEP, the pecking order in the West could be difficult to determine because no other team produced a winning record last season. Tulane won five games, but lost head-to-head to Houston, which won three games and returns significant offensive firepower.

Tulsa, SMU and Rice took turns beating each other in the WAC last season, so who is better? The Golden Hurricane probably deserves an edge based on a "quality" victory over UTEP in a regular season finale. Stay tuned to see if two Hurricane basketball players, Jarius Glenn and Seneca Collins, are able to make an impact when they put on pads this fall.

Conference USA's new scheduling format calls for teams to play every opponent in their division plus three teams from the opposite division. Perhaps teams with favorable schedules can capitalize on the advantage and contend for a title.

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

### Offense

QB	Darrell Hackney, Sr., UAB
RB	DeAngelo Williams, Sr., Memphis
RB	Uriel Parrish, Sr., Tulsa
OL	Toby Bullock, Sr., Marshall
OL	Matt Batusic, Sr., UAB
OL	Blake Butler, Jr., Memphis
OL	Travis Cooley, Jr., Southern Miss
OL	Jeff Perrett, Jr., Tulsa
WR	Vincent Marshall, Sr., Houston
WR	Jayson Boyd, Sr., UTEP
TE	Garrett Mills, Sr., Tulsa
PK	Stephen Gostkowski, Sr., Memphis

### Defense

DL	John Syptak, Sr., Rice
DL	Chris Mineo, Sr., UTEP
DL	Larry McSwain, Jr., UAB
DL	Marcus West, Sr., Memphis
LB	Nick Bunting, Jr., Tulsa
LB	Chris Moore, Sr., East Carolina
LB	Anthony Cannon, Sr., Tulane
DB	Chris Royal, Sr., Marshall
DB	John Eubanks, Sr., Southern Miss
DB	Wesley Smith, Sr., Memphis
DB	Curtis Keyes, Jr., Marshall
P	Chris Beckman, Jr., Tulane

## Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Johnnie Lee Higgins, UTEP
Best hands	Garrett Mills, TE, Tulsa
Best passing QB	Darrell Hackney, UAB
Best running QB	Joel Armstrong, Rice
Most elusive RB	DeAngelo Williams, Memphis
Best instincts	Travis Cooley, LB, Southern Miss
Best under pressure	Kevin Kolb, QB, Houston
Top NFL prospect	DeAngelo Williams, Memphis
Top impact freshman	Carlton Robinson, WR, Memphis
Hardest hitter	Curtis Keyes, Marshall
Biggest underachiever	Rice's special teams

## Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Mike Price, UTEP
Best recruiter	Steve Kragthorpe, Tulsa
Coach on the spot	George O'Leary, UCF

## Don't be surprised if ...

Opponents kick the ball away from Tulsa's Ashlan Davis. He set an NCAA record by returning five kickoffs for touchdowns last season. Davis needs one more to tie the NCAA career record.

## One man's opinion

"I think Thomas Howard, our linebacker, from what a lot of people tell me is maybe one of the best in the state of Texas. He's 5-3 and runs a 4.37 and won a slam dunk contest that we had for our team. He is a specimen."

—UTEP coach Mike Price

## Rating the recruits

- 1. Tulsa**  
Top WAC class in '04 and top C-USA class in '05, according to Rivals.com.
- 2. UAB**  
Juco DB and former Alabama signee Chris Felder should help secondary.
- 3. UCF**  
Richard Clark among nation's best center prospects.
- 4. Marshall**  
RB Lenford "Chubb" Small cream of nation's prep school crop.
- 5. Southern Miss**  
Jeff Bower invaded Georgia for standout DL B.J. Wright.
- 6. SMU**  
Juco DB Randall Goode, a former high school sprinter, might contribute immediately.
- 7. UTEP**  
Quarterback Brandis Dew among most decorated signees in Miner history.
- 8. Houston**  
Wideout Javon Harvey gives QB Kevin Kolb yet another target.
- 8. Memphis**  
Tailback T.J. Pitts serving apprenticeship under DeAngelo Williams.
- 10. Rice**  
Center Robby Hamilton of Sugar Land is sweet addition.
- 11. Tulane**  
Tight end Justin Kessler was among top prospects in Texas.
- 12. East Carolina**  
Athletic Terrell Hudgins, former high school QB, is capable of playing many positions.

Wesley Smith,  
Memphis







JOHN EUBANKS, CB



# SOUTHERN MISS

## GOLDEN EAGLES

HATTIESBURG, MISS.

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 C-USA (beat North Texas in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-10)

Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 33,000

Official athletic Web site: [www.southernmiss.com](http://www.southernmiss.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

8 6 7 9 7  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Jeff Bower, 14th Year (96-67-1) Career Record: 96-67-1

Assistant coaches: Randy Butler (asst. head coach/TES), Jay Hopson (def. coord./def. backs), Jay Johnson (off. coord./QBs), Ron McCrone (def. ends), Courtney Messingham (WRs), Derrick Nix (RBs), Lytrel Pollard (LBs), Mitch Rodrigue (off. line), Fred Tate (def. tackles)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 4	Tulane	32-14
S. 10	@ALABAMA	3-27
S. 17	McNeese State	
S. 24	@HOUSTON	35-29 (OT)
O. 1	@EAST CAROLINA	51-10
O. 8	Tulsa	
O. 15	UCF	
O. 21	@UAB	26-21
O. 29	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
N. 8	@MARSHALL	
N. 19	Memphis	26-30

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	9	Dustin Almond (6-2, 214, r-Sr.)
FB	3	Anthony Harris (5-11, 220, r-Sr.)
RB	8	Larry Thomas (6-0, 197, r-So.)
LT	75	Chris Clark (6-4, 280, r-So.)
LG	55	Travis Cooley (6-2, 285, r-Jr.)
C	56	Robby D'Angelo (6-1, 277, r-Jr.)
RG	70	George Batiste (6-5, 309, r-Jr.)
RT	73	Neal Mead (6-4, 314, r-Sr.)
TE	48	Jonathan Palmer (6-3, 248, r-Jr.)
FL	82	Tavarres Williams (6-0, 182, So.)
SE	80	Antwon Courington (6-2, 209, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	47	Matthew Chatelain (6-2, 245, r-Jr.)
NT	90	Tom Johnson (6-3, 277, Sr.)
DT	95	Terrance Ford (6-1, 300, Sr.)
BAN	50	Akeem Lockett (6-2, 250, Sr.)
SLB	49	Naton Stewart (6-3, 246, r-Sr.)
MLB	45	Kevis Coley (6-1, 226, r-Jr.)
WLB	18	Trevis Coley (6-1, 221, r-Jr.)
CB	14	Caleb Hendrix (5-10, 185, Jr.)
CB	1	John Eubanks (5-11, 175, r-So.)
FS	12	Darrell Bennett (6-0, 210, r-Jr.)
ROV	6	Brandon Sumrall (5-11, 185, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	16	Darren McCaleb (5-11, 165, Jr.)
P	17	Luke Johnson (6-0, 240, r-Sr.)

## Ever-consistent Golden Eagles will give Bower his 12th straight winning season—and much more

**F**or all you newcomers to Conference USA, the university in Hattiesburg, Miss., is Southern Miss. The school's football team is called the Golden Eagles. You can just call them "consistent."

Southern Miss is one of only eight Division I-A schools which has produced 11 consecutive winning seasons. The Golden Eagles have been to seven bowls in the last eight years, including three straight.

So, despite all the comings and goings in C-USA, is there any doubt coach Jeff Bower's team will find a way to finish near the top again?

Bower, who returns 17 starters from a team that went 7-5 last season, would feel better about his chances if the defense returns to vintage form.

Southern Miss ranked 15th or better nationally in scoring defense every year from 1999 until 2003, but the Golden Eagles slipped to 54th nationally last season.

It should be noted that Southern Miss still managed to rank third or better among C-USA teams in most defensive categories last season, but that's substandard compared to the achievements of previous Golden Eagle defensive units.

"We had about five games where we gave up 400 yards of offense," Bower says. "That's not Southern Miss defense."

The Golden Eagles lost four of their last five regular season games and gave up 150 points during the four defeats.

Bower says a real key this season will be the play of the defensive line.

"We gave up too many yards running the football last year and I just don't think we have been as good there as we need to be," he says. "Some guys have the potential to be good, but we've got a lot of growing up to do between now and the end of the season."

The Golden Eagles ranked seventh among C-USA teams and 76th nationally against the run last season. Defensive line starters Matthew Chatelain and Terrance Ford return and the linebacking corps may have opponents seeing double.

Kevis Coley is a middle linebacker who was a part-time starter last season and twin brother Trevis Coley, who was a starter at free safety last season, auditioned at outside linebacker during spring drills.

"We are pretty thin at linebacker and we wanted to see whether or not he could play there should that

need to happen and he proved that he could," Bower says. "Our preference is we would like to have him at safety if we can get kids to step up at linebacker."

Cover corner and special-teams standout John Eubanks (he ranked fifth nationally as a kick returner in 2004) will need to be a playmaker in the secondary. Akeem Lockett, who plays the bandit position, also is a returning starter along with defensive backs Caleb Hendrix and Darrell Bennett.

Give Southern Miss credit for forging a winning record and winning a bowl game despite an offense which ranked 10th among C-USA teams in both total yards and passing efficiency last season.

"We've got to be more high-percentage throwing the football," Bower says, adding that quarterback Dustin Almond must be more consistent. "He has been a little up and down coming into his senior year."

Bower also points to a need to run better. He says the Golden Eagles' ground game was sometimes good and sometimes not very good last season.

Anthony Harris, a former starting tailback, was moved to fullback during spring drills. The Golden Eagles also return incumbent fullback Bobby Weakley.

Bower said fullback is Harris' natural position.

"We had some younger kids that were a little faster and have a little more big play ability that we really wanted to give as many snaps as we possibly could [at tailback] this spring and I think that has turned out to be a good move. Anthony did a good job for us at fullback. He can catch the ball and do some things there. He could still be the one back for us when we get back in that offense."

Larry Thomas is expected to be the new starter at tailback and will run behind an offensive line with returning starters Travis Cooley and George Batiste.

Antwon Courington, who led the team in catches and receiving yards as a junior, is the headliner of a receiving corps that could be a team strength.

"I think Courington will be a big key for us," Bower says. "I don't think he has played up to his potential, to be honest with you. If we can get his attention a little bit more and get him to step up, he's got a chance to be a difference-maker."

The coaching staff will have a bit of a different look, including new offensive and defensive coordinators.



# MEMPHIS TIGERS



MEMPHIS, TENN.

**2004 Record:** 8-4 overall, 5-3 C-USA (lost to Bowling Green in the GMAC Bowl, 52-35)

**Stadium:** Liberty Bowl Memorial

**Turf:** Artificial

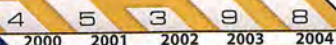
**Capacity:** 62,380

**Official athletic Web site:** www.gotigersgo.com



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:



2

**Head coach:** Tommy West, 5th Year (25-23) **Career Record:** 60-58

**Assistant coaches:** Randy Fichtner (off. coord./QBs), Rick Mallory (off. line), Tyson Helton (special teams/TEs), Clay Helton (WRs), Jeep Hunter (RBs), Joe Lee Dunn (def. coord.), Craig Boller (def. line), Tim Keane (secondary), Chris Rumph (OLBs)

## All-everything tailback Williams may strike the pose by season's end

**C**an a player from a non-BCS conference win the Heisman Trophy? Memphis running back DeAngelo Williams will chase college football's biggest prize.

Williams enters his senior year as the NCAA's active career leader in rushing touchdowns, rushing yards, yards per carry and all-purpose yards. He ranked second nationally among Division I-A players with a school-record 1,948 rushing yards last season, helping the Tigers reach bowl games in back-to-back years for the first time.

Williams, who averages 6.2 yards per carry, announced in January that he would bypass early entry in the NFL Draft and return for a farewell season. Coach Tommy West believes Williams can be a top 15 pick in the 2006 draft. "He's that good," West says.

West says Williams possesses the "whole package," including speed, vision, patience, toughness and the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield.

"I can't compare him because I haven't coached the other guys," West says. "But I think he's the equivalent athletically of a Marshall Faulk and he has patience like Emmitt Smith. I thought Emmitt Smith had great patience. DeAngelo has everything. If he stays healthy, he is going to go on and do a lot more once he leaves here."

West believes Williams is a legitimate Heisman contender. The Tigers can boost Williams' candidacy by winning lots of games. They went 8-4 last season, riding a high-octane offense that was held below 28 points just twice.

Williams' return guarantees that Memphis will excel at moving the chains again, but four-year starting quarterback Danny Wimprine must be replaced. Wimprine, who finished his career with more than 10,000 passing yards, ranked 26th nationally in total offense last season.

Wimprine's successor could be a kicker. Junior Patrick Byrne was originally signed as a kicker who would be given an opportunity to compete for playing time at quarterback. Byrne, who handled kickoff chores last season, ended spring drills as the leading candidate to start. If he is the main man next season, he will be relieved of kickoff duties.

None of the top three quarterback candidates has thrown a collegiate pass and, in terms of

development, none is where he "is going to need to be," West says.

That's the bad news.

"The good news is Patrick has made a lot of progress," West says.

"We are going to have to get a quarterback to a point where he won't hurt us. We can surround the guy with enough people to where all he has to do is get it in the hands of his people and not make mistakes. Our quarterback will not have to win games for us. We've got some pretty talented people we can put around him."

Among those talents are Williams, sophomore running back Joseph Doss and receivers Maurice Avery, Mario Pratcher and Ryan Scott.

"We've got some people that can make some plays for us," West says.

The offensive line must be reconstructed. Four starters, including two all-league players, had to be replaced. West says he was probably as pleased with the offensive line as any position group during spring drills.

"We are a little bit inexperienced, but I tell you what—we are going to be bigger and more physical up front than we have ever been," he says.

The lone returning offensive starter, 6-3, 280-pound junior Blake Butler, is moving from left guard to center. Former starter Andrew Handy, a 6-2, 310-pound senior who sat out last season to rehabilitate an injured ankle, is expected to return to duty. Sophomore Andy Smith (6-2, 290) had a tremendous spring, according to West. Towering junior Willie Henderson (6-7, 328) may be ready to cash in on a blue-chip reputation and sophomore Abraham Holloway (6-4, 312) also casts a significant shadow.

Memphis returns seven defensive starters, including free safety Wesley Smith and end Marcus West. Perhaps the experience will help the Tigers plug some leaks. Memphis averaged 35.8 points last season and, because of a charitable defense, outscored opponents by an average of only four and a half points.

Tommy West says his team, which ranked 114th nationally in passing yards allowed last season, must get better cornerback play. "We're a blitz team and if you are going to be a blitz team, you have to go to be good enough at corner. We weren't good enough at corner."

West said the quality of cornerback play was better—but still not good enough—in the spring.



DeANGELO WILLIAMS, RB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 5	Mississippi	20-13
S. 17	Chattanooga	52-21
S. 24	@TULSA	
O. 1	UTEP	
O. 8	@UCF	
O. 15	@HOUSTON	41-14
O. 22	East Carolina	38-35
N. 1	UAB	28-35
N. 12	@TENNESSEE	
N. 19	@SOUTHERN MISS	30-26
N. 26	Marshall	

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/26

### OFFENSE

QB	19	Patrick Byrne (6-1, 211, Jr.)
RB	20	DeAngelo Williams (5-10, 217, Sr.)
LT	65	Abraham Holloway (6-4, 312, So.)
LG	75	Andrew Handy (6-2, 310, Sr.)
C	63	Blake Butler (6-3, 280, Jr.)
RG	54	Willie Henderson (6-7, 328, Jr.)
RT	59	Bruce McCaleb (6-2, 278, Jr.)
TE	82	John Doucette (6-2, 265, Sr.)
WR	83	Ryan Scott (6-4, 215, Jr.)
WR	1	Maurice Avery (6-1, 216, Sr.)
WR	84	Mario Pratcher (6-4, 211, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	43	Marcus West (6-4, 260, Sr.)
NG	62	Ryan Williams (6-2, 290, Fr.)
RE	99	Rubio Phillips (6-2, 250, Sr.)
OLB	10	Carlton Baker (6-2, 232, Sr.)
MLB	41	Tim Goodwell (6-2, 229, Sr.)
OLB	30	Quinton McCrary (6-2, 222, Jr.)
RS	21	Derek Clemen (5-9, 195, Jr.)
LCB	26	Dustin Lopez (5-10, 191, Jr.)
RCB	40	O.C. Collins (6-0, 185, Sr.)
FS	45	Wesley Smith (6-3, 194, Sr.)
LS	47	Jake Kasser (5-10, 190, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	32	Stephen Gostkowski (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P	34	Michael Gibson (6-2, 190, Jr.)

CONFERENCE USA EAST



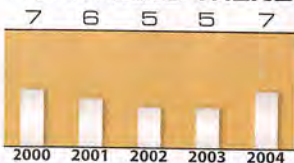
# UAB

## BLAZERS



**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 5-3 C-USA  
(lost to Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, 59-40)  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.uabsports.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@TENNESSEE	
S. 10	@TROY	
S. 17	Jacksonville State	
O. 1	Rice	
O. 8	Southern Methodist	
O. 15	@MARSHALL	
O. 21	Southern Miss	21-26
N. 1	@MEMPHIS	35-28
N. 12	UCF	
N. 19	@UTEP	
N. 26	@EAST CAROLINA	

**Head coach:** Watson Brown,  
11th Year (54-59)

**Career Record:** 79-131-1

**Stadium:** Legion Field

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 72,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 58/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	4	Darrell Hackney (6-1, 235, Sr.)
FB	33	Nolan Hughey (6-0, 210, r-Fr.)
RB	34	Dan Burks (6-1, 218, Jr.)
LT	69	Cornelius Rogers (6-4, 320, Jr.)
LG	69	Quinton Harris (6-4, 330, Jr.)
C	50	Matt Batusic (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RG	61	Adam Truitt (6-3, 310, So.)
RT	78	Julius Wilson (6-5, 310, Sr.)
TE	80	Cedric Hampton (6-4, 275, Sr.)
FL	11	Reggie Lindsey (5-10, 185, Sr.)
WR	29	Nick Coon (6-1, 180, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	44	Larry McSwain (6-1, 250, Jr.)
NT	76	Ernest Respress (6-5, 300, Sr.)
DT	90	Sam Williamson (6-5, 295, Sr.)
DE	98	Jermaine McElveen (6-5, 250, Jr.)
SLB	55	Marcus Mark (6-2, 225, Jr.)
MLB	41	Mastaki Smith (5-11, 230, Jr.)
WLB	51	Joe Henderson (6-2, 230, r-Fr.)
LCB	19	Carlos Hendricks (5-10, 195, Sr.)
RCB	13	Will Evans (5-9, 175, Jr.)
FS	21	Dominique Cosper (5-11, 190, Sr.)
SS	31	Brandon Register (6-1, 190, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	86	Parker Mullins (5-11, 175, Jr.)
P	86	Parker Mullins (5-11, 175, Jr.)

Darrell Hackney, the only quarterback ever to lead Alabama-Birmingham to a bowl game, is back for an encore.

Hackney guided UAB to an appearance in the Hawaii Bowl as a junior last season and threw for 417 yards in the loss to Hawaii. This season, perhaps Hackney will get a chance to become the first quarterback ever to lead the Blazers to a bowl victory.

The pieces certainly seem to be in place for another bowl trip. Hackney, whose career totals include 6,706 passing yards and 49 touchdowns, is one of 16 returning starters from a team that went 7-5 last season. Hackney, who ranked 14th nationally in passing efficiency and 24th in total offense, will enter his farewell season in search of a new favorite target.

Gone is All-America receiver Roddy White, who set a Conference USA record for single-season receiving yards in 2004. Entering spring drills, coach Watson Brown wasn't sure if it would be up to an individual to fill White's shoes or whether the receiving corps would have to collectively make up for White's absence.

"We've changed some things a little bit in a philosophical way," Brown says. "Last year, we went at it with the approach of 'throw it to Roddy, if they'll let us. If they won't, then take it somewhere else.' I think now we've got to spread it around as a starting point. So, Darrell has to adjust to that and I thought he got better at it as spring went on."

If the adjustment goes well, perhaps the Blazers can be as prolific as last season, when they ranked 23rd nationally in scoring.

Four offensive-line starters (Matt Batusic, Cornelius Rogers, Julius Wilson and Quinton Harris) are back to protect Hackney and open holes for running backs Dan Burks and Corey White, who combined for 1,469 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns last season. They averaged 5.4 yards per attempt.

Defensive end Larry McSwain, who led C-USA in sacks last season, and free safety Dominique Cosper, who led UAB in tackles, give the Blazers a pair of returning all-conference players on defense.

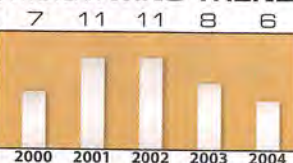
# MARSHALL

## THUNDERING HERD



**2004 Record:** 6-6 overall, 6-2 MAC  
(lost to Cincinnati in the Fort Worth Bowl, 32-14)  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.herdzone.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	William & Mary	
S. 10	Kansas State	
S. 24	@UCF	20-3
O. 1	Southern Methodist	
O. 8	@VIRGINIA TECH	
O. 15	UAB	
O. 22	@UTEP	
O. 29	@TULANE	
N. 8	Southern Miss	
N. 19	East Carolina	
N. 26	@MEMPHIS	

**Head coach:** Mark Snyder,  
1st Year (0-0)

**Career Record:** 0-0

**Stadium:** Joan C. Edwards Stadium

**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 38,019

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 7  
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/25

#### OFFENSE

QB	16	Jimmy Skinner (6-3, 190, Jr.)
RB	44	Ahmad Bradshaw (5-11, 190, So.)
LT	56	Toby Bullock (6-4, 340, Sr.)
LG	74	David Ziegler (6-5, 288, So.)
C	66	Doug Legursky (6-3, 308, So.)
RG	63	John Inman (6-5, 314, So.)
RT	73	Seth Cook (6-4, 315, Jr.)
TE	85	Jeff Mullins (6-3, 255, Sr.)
WR	22	Wilbur Hargrove (5-11, 180, Sr.)
WR	1	Marcus Fitzgerald (5-10, 198, So.)
WR	42	Shaun Lauzon (6-6, 204, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	38	Demarcus Thomas (6-1, 235, Sr.)
DT	52	Floyd Wright (6-0, 271, Sr.)
DT	95	Roger Garrett (6-1, 286, Jr.)
DE	54	Gavin Herscher (6-3, 243, Jr.)
LB	47	Matt Couch (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB	30	Dennis Thornton (5-11, 210, Sr.)
LB	39	Donté Newsome (5-11, 205, Sr.)
CB	27	Willie Smith (6-0, 197, Sr.)
CB	40	Chris Hawkins (5-10, 184, Jr.)
FS	26	Chris Royal (5-9, 185, Sr.)
SS	25	Curtis Keyes (6-0, 191, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	49	Ian O'Connor (6-2, 205, Jr.)
P	49	Ian O'Connor (6-2, 205, Jr.)

If Marshall law is going to reign supreme in Conference USA, the Thundering Herd will have to replace a lot of manpower.

Marshall lost eight starters on both sides of the ball and a head coach. Bob Pruett, who won 94 games in nine years, announced March 9 that he was retiring from coaching.

"My friends in coaching have always said you will know when the time comes and all of you will know when your time comes too," Pruett said at a farewell press conference. "I have been coaching football for 40 years and it is time that I spend more time with my family and be a fan."

Pruett guided Marshall to a Division I-AA national championship in 1996 and helped the Thundering Herd make the jump to I-A look relatively easy. Since joining I-A and the Mid-America Conference in 1997, Marshall won five league titles and made seven bowl trips in eight seasons.

By Herd standards, last year could be considered a down season. The team posted "only" a 6-6 record, but rebounded from getting swept in non-league games to go 6-2 against MAC foes. The league record would have been 7-1 if not for squandering a 28-7 second-half lead in a loss to Akron. But bottom line, Marshall went bowling again and extended a string of non-losing seasons to 21 straight.

The man in charge of maintaining the streak is new head man Mark Snyder, a former Marshall player who spent the past four seasons, including one as defensive coordinator, at Ohio State.

"I have always been proud to have been a part of Marshall's resurgence in football and now I am honored to have the opportunity to return to my alma mater and lead Marshall into a new era," Snyder says.

Snyder inherits only two returning offensive starters in left tackle Toby Bullock and right tackle Seth Cook.

Bullock, a 6-foot-4, 330-pound senior, has started 24 consecutive games and will try to open holes for running back Ahmad Bradshaw, who ran for 462 yards (4.9 per carry) and three touchdowns as a true-freshman backup last season.

The Herd must replace star wideout Josh Davis, who finished his career second on the NCAA's all-time receptions list.



# EAST CAROLINA

## PIRATES



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 C-USA

Official athletic Web site: www.ecupirates.com

Win only two games, as East Carolina did last season, and cross-the-board improvement is likely needed.

Statistics bear that out. In 2004, the Pirates ranked 105th or lower nationally in all of the following categories: rushing offense, total offense, rushing defense, pass efficiency defense, total defense and scoring defense.

That means new coach Skip Holtz has lots of rebuilding to do, including some between-the-ears work. He says East Carolina has tasted defeat in 23 of its last 26 games, so confidence must be developed.

Holtz took the ECU job after spending six seasons working for his father, Lou Holtz, at South Carolina. He succeeded John Thompson, who steered the Pirates to consecutive 10th-place Conference USA finishes.

Holtz believes he can turn the program around because ECU has won in the past (six bowl games since 1990, four top three C-USA finishes in the last eight years) and because he has a supportive administration. Holtz says it is hard for him to evaluate what went wrong prior to his arrival, but points to an "awful lot of change" in terms of coaches and administrators.

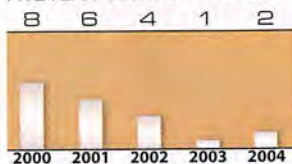
"There hasn't been a lot of stability the last five or six years," he says.

Holtz seems to be a nice fit in Greenville because, thanks to his previous job, he has recruiting experience in the Carolinas. And he inherited a group of players that includes 19 returning starters.

Two offensive players that caught his eye are tailbacks Chris Johnson and Robert Tillman. Holtz says he wants to get the ball in their hands because of their speed and big-play potential. Johnson and Tillman will be asked to upgrade a ground game that was limited to 59 or fewer yards five times last season. Johnson led the Pirates in rushing yards (561), kickoff-return yards (765) and all-purpose yards (1,562) in 2004. He was 24th nationally in all-purpose yards and set eight single-game or single-season freshman records.

Holtz won't know what the Pirates can hang their hat on offensively until the quarterback picture clears up. Returning starter James Pinkney was exiled during the spring and his status is in doubt.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Duke	
S. 17	@WAKE FOREST	17-31
S. 24	@WEST VIRGINIA	23-56
O. 1	Southern Miss	10-51
O. 8	Rice	
O. 15	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	
O. 22	@MEMPHIS	35-38
O. 29	UCF	
N. 12	@TULSA	
N. 19	@MARSHALL	
N. 26	UAB	

Head coach: Skip Holtz,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 43,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	3	Davon Drew (6-4, 215, r-Fr.)
RB	24	Chris Johnson (5-11, 170, So.)
OT	70	Chris Sellers (6-2, 296, Sr.)
OG	64	Gary Freeman (6-1, 331, Sr.)
C	77	Drew Sutton (6-3, 272, Jr.)
OG	60	Trey Magee (6-4, 297, Sr.)
OT	78	Eric Graham (6-6, 312, Jr.)
TE	89	Sean Harmon (6-3, 277, Sr.)
WR	39	Aundrae Allison (6-0, 186, Jr.)
WR	80	Kevin Roach (6-4, 207, Jr.)
WR	87	Brian Howard (6-2, 170, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	55	Shauntae Hunt (6-5, 268, Sr.)
NG	96	Mark Robinson (6-2, 255, So.)
DT	99	Dontré Brown (6-1, 287, Jr.)
DE	47	Lorenza Pickett (6-1, 233, Sr.)
LB	11	Richard Koonce (6-0, 237, Sr.)
LB	48	Durwin Lamb (6-1, 223, So.)
LB	98	Jarrett Wiggins (6-3, 206, r-Fr.)
CB	6	Demetrius Hodges (5-9, 191, Sr.)
CB	35	Kasey Ross (5-11, 160, Jr.)
FS	5	Jamar Flournoy (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	8	Pierre Parker (6-0, 202, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Michael Sunday (5-10, 188, Jr.)
P	10	Ryan Dougherty (6-1, 212, Jr.)

# CENTRAL FLORIDA

## GOLDEN KNIGHTS



2004 Record: 0-11 overall, 0-8 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ucfathletics.com

The news wasn't all bad for the University of Central Florida during an 0-11 campaign one year ago. Players combined for a grade-point average of 2.779, best since the school moved to Division I-A in 1996.

Sticking with that theme, perhaps it's best just to chalk up 2004 as a learning experience. The most important lesson was it's hard to be consistent when you start 43 different players on offense and defense during the course of a season.

Tackle Keith Shologan, a true freshman last season, was the only defensive player who started every game at the same position. Injuries hit the defensive backfield and linebacker corps so hard that 10 different players started in the secondary and seven different players started at linebacker.

Receivers Mike Walker and Brandon Marshall were moved to the defensive backfield to help stop the bleeding and Walker, arguably the team's best athlete, managed to pull off the unique feat of leading the Golden Knights in both interceptions and yards per catch. Marshall led the team in tackles.

Coach George O'Leary felt good enough about available manpower in the secondary that the plan was to move Walker and Marshall back to offense in the spring. And the second-year coach addressed linebacker depth by signing five in his latest recruiting class. One of them, 6-foot-4, 260-pound freshman Clarence Howard, arrived on campus in the spring.

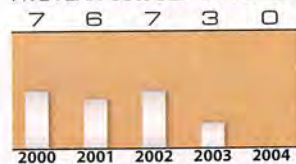
O'Leary is not opposed to playing puppies. His starting offensive line last season included three true freshmen and two sophomores.

The Golden Knights will be young again in 2005. Only four seniors were listed as offensive or defensive starters on a pre-spring depth chart. But O'Leary believes he is laying a foundation for future success.

No stranger to success, O'Leary forged six winning seasons in his last seven years as coach at Georgia Tech. He came to UCF after spending two seasons as a Minnesota Vikings assistant and is still waiting for his first victory with the Golden Knights.

UCF was beaten by 17 or more points seven times last season. The Golden Knights were limited to 230 or fewer total yards in five games.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S. 17	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
S. 24	Marshall	3-20
O. 1	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
O. 8	Memphis	
O. 15	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O. 22	Tulane	
O. 29	@EAST CAROLINA	
N. 5	Houston	
N. 12	@UAB	
N. 19	@RICE	

Head coach: George O'Leary,

2nd Year (0-11)

Career Record: 52-44

Stadium: Florida Citrus Bowl

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,438

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	9	Steven Moffett (6-3, 210, Jr.)
FB	32	Goodson Ohaegbulam (6-0, 250, Jr.)
TB	20	Dontavious Wilcox (5-9, 220, Jr.)
LT	69	Dominic Ignelzi (6-4, 300, So.)
LG	67	Dan Veenstra (6-5, 300, Jr.)
C	53	Cedric Gagne-Marcoux (6-3, 280, Jr.)
RG	79	Kyle Smith (6-3, 280, So.)
RT	70	Josh Sittion (6-5, 310, So.)
TE	84	Darcy Johnson (6-5, 255, Sr.)
WR	11	Mike Walker (6-2, 195, Jr.)
WR	81	Brandon Marshall (6-4, 230, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	49	Glenroy Watkins (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LT	74	Keith Shologan (6-2, 280, So.)
RT	71	Emeka Okamkor (6-1, 270, So.)
RE	92	Dennis King (6-2, 260, So.)
SLB	96	Chirs Welsh (6-4, 235, Jr.)
MLB	57	Clarence Howard (6-4, 260, r-Fr.)
WLB	48	James Cook (6-3, 220, Sr.)
LCB	32	Travis Holmes (5-9, 170, Jr.)
RCB	26	Ron Ellis (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FS	39	Sha'reff Rashad (6-1, 200, r-Fr.)
SS	28	Renford Parkes (5-11, 210, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	2	Matt Prater (5-10, 180, Sr.)
P	17	Aaron Horne (6-3, 195, Sr.)





JORDAN PALMER, QB



# UTEP MINERS

EL PASO, TEXAS

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 6-2 WAC (lost to Colorado in the Houston Bowl, 33-28)

Stadium: Sun Bowl Stadium

Turf: Artificial

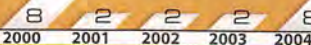
Capacity: 51,500

Official athletic Web site: www.utepathletics.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mike Price, 2nd Year (8-4) Career Record: 137-125

Assistant coaches: Jeff Banks (RBs/punters/recruiting coord.), Jim Clark (CBs), Tim Duffie (LBs), Tim Hundley (def. coord.), Lawrence Livingston (asst. head coach/off. line), Ikaika Mallo (def. line), Aaron Price (QB/skickers), Eric Price (off. coord.), Jeff Woodruff (safeties/special teams)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@NEW MEXICO STATE	45-0
S. 16	Houston	
S. 24	New Mexico	
O. 1	@MEMPHIS	
O. 14	@TULANE	
O. 22	Marshall	
O. 29	@RICE	35-28 (OT)
N. 5	Tulsa	35-37
N. 12	Texas Southern	
N. 19	UAB	
N. 26	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	57-27

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11

Lettermen returning/lost: 44/21

### OFFENSE

QB	5	Jordan Palmer (6-5, 230, Jr.)
TB	2	Tyler Ebell (5-9, 185, Sr.)
LT	74	Josh House (6-4, 295, Sr.)
LG	79	Jose Garcia (6-2, 315, Sr.)
C	61	Andy Smith (6-4, 305, Jr.)
RG	73	James Riley (6-2, 300, Sr.)
RT	57	Tyler Ribitzki (5-2, 290, Fr.)
TE	37	Jake Sears (6-3, 240, So.)
WR	80	Chris Francies (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	21	Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. (6-0, 180, Jr.)
WR	1	Jayson Boyd (6-4, 210, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	47	Alex Obomese (6-3, 230, Jr.)
LT	70	Chris Mineo (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RT	63	Zach West (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RE	94	Joe Ward (6-4, 245, Jr.)
WLB	6	Jeremy Jones (6-1, 220, Jr.)
MLB	44	Troy Collavo (6-0, 230, Jr.)
SLB	11	Thomas Howard (6-3, 240, Sr.)
LCB	24	James Delgado (5-11, 180, Sr.)
RCB	1	Nate Draughon (5-10, 180, Jr.)
FS	9	Quintin Demps (6-0, 205, So.)
SS	25	Joe Fleskoski (6-1, 200, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	49	Reagan Schneider (6-0, 180, Jr.)
P	7	Ryan Hotchkiss (6-1, 210, Jr.)

## Price has talent in El Paso to dig up a C-USA title for Miners

**T**he last school to join the reconfigured Conference USA was Texas-El Paso and the Miners seem equipped to finish first in the league's Western Division.

UTEP was invited to join C-USA after TCU announced plans to leave the league for the Mountain West Conference. Instead of looking within established borders for TCU's replacement and adding a school like Louisiana Tech (which lobbied for a C-USA invite), the conference instead opted to stretch its border westward to El Paso.

The addition of UTEP means C-USA's membership roster will span three time zones. But the timing for picking up the Miners couldn't have been better.

UTEP's football program cracked the national top 25 in both major polls for the first time in school history during the 2004 season and the basketball program is coming off back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances. Even Hollywood has taken notice, making a movie about former coach Don "The Bear" Haskins and the Miners' 1966 national championship hoops team.

If Haskins is the most beloved figure in school history, then football coach Mike Price is quickly ascending to the No. 2 spot. In his first season, Price took a program coming off three consecutive two-win seasons and guided the Miners to eight victories (including a school-record-tying seven in a row) and a Houston Bowl appearance.

Price was a finalist for national coach of the year honors and he was chosen as college football's top first-year coach by the Football Writers' Association of America.

Now the big question is this: Can Price avoid a "sophomore" slump?

"Like I have always said, I turned Washington State's program around about three or four times, for the good and the bad," he says. "I just think we've got to make sure we remember what got us to where we were last year. We've got to go back to fundamentals and go back to basics and just don't forget our discipline and our structure that we have in place here."

Price says he will stay on top of his kids and do it with a smile on his face. There were lots of smiles to go around at the school's home stadium, the

Sun Bowl, last season. UTEP led the WAC in average home attendance (41,209) and fans who had endured decades of losing were finally rewarded.

From 2001-03, UTEP football was a comedy of errors. The Miners committed 108 turnovers and managed three victories over Division I-A opponents. In Price's first season, the Miners produced a positive turnover margin.

If the Miners take care of the football again, don't be surprised if they wind up in C-USA's championship game. They are the only team in the league's new Western hemisphere to produce a winning record last season.

Junior quarterback Jordan Palmer, younger brother of former Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer, will try to lead UTEP to back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1987-88. Last season, Palmer threw for 2,818 yards, third most in school history. He ranked 28th nationally in passing efficiency and 37th among Division I-A players in total offense.

Price coached high-profile quarterbacks Drew Bledsoe, Jason Gesser and Ryan Leaf at Washington State. He says Palmer "has probably improved as much as any quarterback I've ever had in one year."

Palmer will throw to a group of receivers that Price says could be as good as any in the country. Seven returning receivers combined for 160 catches, 2,358 yards and 22 touchdowns last season. Jayson Boyd and Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. both went over 100 yards in a bowl loss to Colorado. Boyd, Higgins and Chris Francies could challenge for postseason honors.

UTEP must replace running back Howard Jackson, who rushed for 3,466 career yards and set a school record for career all-purpose yards. But successor Tyler Ebell, a UCLA transfer, could have a breakout season. A former Parade All-American, Ebell ran for nearly 1,500 yards in two seasons with the Bruins.

"He's a slasher-type runner," Price says. "He breaks arm tackles. He's strong. He will run over you if he has to. But the best thing he does is cut. He can stop and cut and go on a dime."

Key returnees on defense are linebacker Thomas Howard (second among WAC players in sacks last season), lineman Chris Mineo (fourth among WAC players in sacks), lineman Zach West (second-team All-WAC) and safety Quintin Demps (FWAA Freshman All-American last season).



# HOUSTON COUGARS



HOUSTON

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Stadium: Robertson Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.uhcougars.com

Turf: Grass

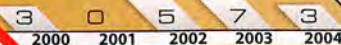
Capacity: 32,000



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

2



Head coach: Art Briles, 3rd Year (10-14) Career Record: 10-14

Assistant coaches: Ron Harris (def. coord./def. line), Alan Weddell (ILBs/special teams coord.), Rodney Blackshear (WRs), Randy Clements (off. line), Clay Jennings (safeties), Philip Montgomery (RBs), Jason Phillips (CBs), Erik Slaughter (OLBs), Mike Spradlin (off. line)



KEVIN KOLB, QB

## The Art of the Turnaround: Cougs could be most improved

**T**he buzz around new-look Conference USA is that Houston could be the league's most improved team.

"I hope they are right," coach Art Briles says.

The Cougars return eight offensive starters, are loaded at the skill positions and will switch from a 4-3 defensive alignment to a 3-4 to in hopes of fortifying a unit that was plundered during a 3-8 season one year ago.

"First of all, we are not pleased with the way it turned out last year, but we are not beating ourselves up either," Briles says. "We have become stronger mentally and we are going to become more accountable to each other on a daily basis. We grew from that. We just never had a chance to gain any confidence or momentum last year. We are excited about having a chance to make tremendous improvement in 2005."

It is possible that Houston will be explosive enough to outscore most opponents, if necessary. The school's spring prospectus suggested that C-USA defensive coordinators might want to "take stock in Tylenol next fall."

Senior Kevin Kolb led C-USA in total offense last season and has started 24 consecutive games, the ninth-longest current streak by a Division I-A quarterback. Briles says Kolb is mentally tough and excels at getting the ball where it needs to go.

"He has all the tools," the coach says.

And, seemingly, Kolb has all the weapons a quarterback could want, too.

Players who combined for 83.3 percent of Houston's catches return. Among them are 1,000-yard receiver Vincent Marshall, who was second-team all-league last year, and Donnie Avery, who was named to C-USA's All-Freshman Team in 2004. Marshall, who participates in the long jump and triple jump for the school's track team, has caught at least one pass in 24 straight games.

"Vincent is just an explosive player," Briles says. "He's a guy that can turn a small play into a big one. He's going to have a lot of opportunities to make a lot of plays. He's a guy that has got to be geared up physically and mentally every day because he's going to have a chance to have some big games."

The Cougars can go four deep at running back and the guy at the top of the heap is senior Anthony Evans, who missed the bulk of four games and still

produced a team-leading 788 yards last season. He averaged 98.5 rushing yards per game and is the 10th-leading rusher in school history.

Jackie Battle, a 6-2, 250-pound bulldozer who rarely gets thrown for a loss, missed most of last season with a torn tendon in his finger and will provide depth along with senior Ryan Gilbert and sophomore Harold Taylor.

A spring priority was fixing an offensive line that surrendered a whopping 44 sacks last season. The Cougars had to replace three offensive linemen last season, including two who played in the NFL, and offensive production dropped from 458.3 yards and 34.5 points in 2003 to 389.7 yards and 20.9 points in 2004.

Perhaps the growing pains are over. Four starters return, including Roy Swan, Sterling Doty, SirVincet Rogers and Byron Alfred, who'll miss some of the season recovering from a knee injury.

Briles felt better about the unit after spring drills and indicated the Cougars have quality depth. "It's the first time we've had that situation," he says.

Houston ranked 90th or worse nationally last season in rushing yards allowed, points allowed and pass efficiency defense. Instead of standing pat, Briles green-lighted a change to a 3-4.

Lance Everson, who shared the team lead with 115 tackles last season, would have filled one of the linebacker spots, but was injured in spring drills and could miss the season, according to Briles.

"We've got to find people to pick up the slack and grow up in a hurry," the coach says. "That's kind of where we are right now is making sure everybody is on a pace to excel immediately instead of waiting to get good."

Wade Koehl, the player who tied Everson for the team lead in tackles, is one of seven returning starters. Kade Lane, who has started all 36 games in his career and was third-team all-league in 2004, is moving from the defensive interior to defensive end. Briles says he is expecting a lot of out Lane and 320-pound nose tackle Marquay Love, who is sharing a position with incumbent starter D.J. Johnson.

The UH defense fared better against the pass than the run last season. The Cougars ranked 50th nationally in passing yards allowed. Strong safety Rocky Schwartz, a former high school quarterback, was the team's third-leading tackler and was named to C-USA's All-Freshman Team. Cornerback Willie Gaston and safety Will Gulley also return in the secondary. Gulley injured a knee in the ninth game of last season.

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Oregon	
S. 10	Sam Houston State	
S. 16	@UTEP	
S. 24	Southern Miss	29-35 (OT)
O. 1	@TULSA	
O. 8	@TULANE	24-3
O. 15	Memphis	14-41
O. 22	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
N. 5	@UCF	
N. 12	Southern Methodist	
N. 26	Rice	7-10

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16

Lettermen returning/lost: 43/20

### OFFENSE

QB	4	Kevin Kolb (6-3, 220, Sr.)
RB	6	Anthony Evans (5-10, 215, r-Sr.)
LT	74	SirVincet Rogers (6-3, 295, So.)
LG	71	Roy Swan (6-2, 325, r-Sr.)
C	67	Sterling Doty (6-2, 297, r-Jr.)
RG	70	David Douglas (6-3, 335, r-Sr.)
RT	76	Jason Wagner (6-6, 300, r-So.)
TE	12	Blade Bassler (6-4, 235, r-Sr.)
WR	14	Ricky Wilson (5-10, 180, Jr.)
WR	2	Donnie Avery (6-10, 190, r-So.)
SL	17	Vincent Marshall (5-9, 175, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	62	Kade Lane (6-2, 270, Sr.)
NT	99	Marquay Love (6-0, 320, Jr.)
RE	79	Gerard Richard (6-3, 300, Sr.)
BLB	1	Wade Koehl (6-2, 225, Jr.)
WLB	34	Cody Lubojasky (6-3, 205, So.)
MLB	41	Trent Allen (6-2, 235, r-So.)
SLB	3	Brendan Pahulu (6-3, 215, So.)
CB	10	Willie Gaston (5-11, 185, Sr.)
CB	4	Roshawn Pope (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	18	Will Gulley (6-4, 210, Sr.)
SS	20	Rocky Schwartz (5-11, 180, r-So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	2	Justin Laird (6-2, 210, r-Jr.)
P	2	Justin Laird (6-2, 210, r-Jr.)

CONFERENCE USA WEST



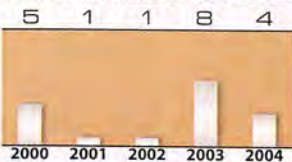
# TULSA

## GOLDEN HURRICANE

2004 Record: 4-8 overall, 3-5 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.tulsahurricane.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Minnesota	
S. 10	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 17	@NORTH TEXAS	
S. 24	Memphis	
O. 1	Houston	
O. 8	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O. 15	@RICE	39-22
O. 22	Southern Methodist	35-41 (OT)
N. 5	@UTEP	37-35
N. 12	East Carolina	
N. 19	@TULANE	

Head coach: Steve Kragthorpe,  
3rd Year (12-13)

Career Record: 12-13

Stadium: Skelly Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 40,385

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/18

## OFFENSE

QB	12 Paul Smith (6-2, 192, r-So.)
RB	23 Uiril Parrish (5-9, 209, Sr.)
LT	69 Mike Mengers (6-4, 274, Jr.)
LG	67 John Hameister-Ries (6-6, 288, Jr.)
C	56 Aaron Danenhauer (6-5, 299, Jr.)
RG	61 Jesse Stoneham (6-4, 315, Sr.)
RT	78 Jeff Parrett (6-7, 319, Jr.)
TE	20 Garrett Mills (6-2, 232, Sr.)
TE	88 Charles Ramsey (6-4, 259, So.)
WR	21 Landon Keopple (6-0, 188, Sr.)
WR	3 Ashlan Davis (5-8, 179, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	97 Brandon Lohr (6-0, 250, Sr.)
NG	90 Brandon Jones (6-2, 290, So.)
DE	35 Cody Madison (6-3, 243, So.)
OLB	32 Chris Chamberlain (6-2, 214, So.)
MLB	41 Nick Bunting (6-1, 225, Jr.)
OLB	55 Nelson Coleman (6-2, 227, So.)
BAN	4 Bobby Blackshire (6-3, 200, Jr.)
LCB	24 Jeff Thibodeaux (6-0, 175, Sr.)
RCB	22 Nick Graham (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	19 Shannon Carter (6-0, 201, Jr.)
SPUR	42 Burnell Smith (6-1, 201, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	29 Brad DeVault (6-0, 195, Sr.)
P	5 Chris Kindred (5-11, 190, Jr.)

Tulsa went 8-4 during the regular season in 2003 and 4-8 during the regular season in 2004.

This is probably too simple of an explanation to do justice to the reversal, but the Golden Hurricane capitalized on a lot of breaks in '03, when Steve Kragthorpe was a rookie head coach, and didn't get as many breaks in '04.

Tulsa lost only five fumbles, fewest in school history, during the 2003 regular season and came from behind to win six times. The good fortune allowed the Hurricane to clinch its first winning season since 1991.

Last season, Tulsa ranked 105th nationally in turnover margin and committed a WAC-high seven red-zone turnovers. The Hurricane was beaten twice in overtime and lost 45-42 to Boise State because the WAC champions scored 10 points in the last 1:24.

Perhaps college football's hard-luck play of the season came in a loss to Nevada. Brandon Diles ran for 202 yards, but lost a fumble near the goal line while running for an apparent game-tying score in triple overtime.

"We were three or four plays away from being 8-4 again," Kragthorpe says. "But that's just the way the ball bounces sometimes."

Tulsa must replace gritty leader James Killian, the only Golden Hurricane quarterback to start a bowl game in the last 13 years.

Sophomore Paul Smith and redshirt freshman David Johnson battled for Killian's old job during spring drills. Smith finished his high school career as the all-time passing yardage leader in Oklahoma. Killian held that distinction until Smith came along.

Smith is the only quarterback on campus who has taken a Division I-A snap. He completed 61.8 percent of his passes as a true-freshman backup two seasons ago.

The new quarterback will have a couple of nice weapons at his disposal. Tight end Garrett Mills is a two-time first-team All-WAC player who led Tulsa in receptions each of the last two years. Uiril Parrish ran for 1,064 yards last season, becoming the 11th player in school history and first since 1997 to rush for at least 1,000 yards.

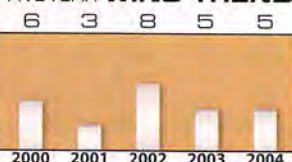
# TULANE

## GREEN WAVE

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Official athletic Web site: www.tulanegreenwave.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 4	@SOUTHERN MISS	14-32
S. 17	Mississippi State	7-28
S. 24	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	
O. 1	Southeastern Louisiana	
O. 8	Houston	3-24
O. 14	UTEP	
O. 22	@UCF	
O. 29	Marshall	
N. 5	@NAVY	42-10
N. 12	@RICE	
N. 19	Tulsa	

Head coach: Chris Scelfo,

7th Year (31-40)

Career Record: 31-40

Stadium: Louisiana Superdome

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 69,767

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/17

## OFFENSE

QB	8 Lester Ricard (6-5, 222, r-Jr.)
FB	22 Ray Boudreaux (5-10, 200, r-So.)
RB	25 Matt Forte (6-1, 224, So.)
LT	68 Chris McGee (6-4, 296, Sr.)
LG	72 Matt Traina (6-3, 285, r-Sr.)
C	55 Joe Traina (6-3, 285, r-Sr.)
RG	66 Donald Madlock (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	64 Derek Rogers (6-5, 309, r-Jr.)
TE	88 Bobby Hoover (6-4, 262, r-Sr.)
WR	17 Bubba Terranova (6-3, 205, Sr.)
WR	84 Kenneth Guidroz (6-3, 209, r-So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	57 Antonio Harris (6-2, 271, So.)
DT	93 Taurean Brown (6-6, 280, r-Jr.)
DT	56 Avery Williams (6-0, 282, So.)
DE	42 Billy Harrison (6-4, 243, Jr.)
WLB	5 Brandon Spincer (6-2, 213, r-Sr.)
MLB	11 Anthony Cannon (6-0, 233, Sr.)
SLB	39 Antonio Mason (6-0, 222, r-Sr.)
CB	21 Jeremy Foreman (6-2, 172, r-Jr.)
CB	31 Sean Lucas (5-11, 202, Sr.)
FS	2 Tra Boger (6-1, 223, r-Sr.)
SS	30 Darren Sapp (6-0, 211, r-Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	47 Nick Beucher (6-0, 190, r-So.)
P	45 Chris Beckman (6-2, 202, r-Jr.)

Can a hot finish in 2004 lead to a successful 2005? Tulane coach Chris Scelfo hopes so.

Tulane began last season 1-4, but got off the canvas and put up a fight. The Green Wave won four of its final six games and ambushed Navy and UAB, two bowl-bound teams. A season-ending loss to Conference USA champion Louisville prevented Scelfo's squad from becoming bowl-eligible.

"We grew up a lot last year. We stuck together through adversity and really came through some things," Scelfo says.

Lester Ricard, who threw 10 touchdown passes in the upsets of Navy and UAB, is back for his junior season and is one of 18 returning starters. Ricard ranked ninth nationally in passing efficiency last season and missed the final two games with a broken wrist.

Ricard will work behind a veteran offensive line featuring returning starters Joe Traina, Matt Traina, Chris McGee and Donald Madlock. That's the good news. The bad news is Ricard will have to break in a new crop of receivers. Three receivers (including Roydell Williams, who ranked 25th nationally in receiving yards last year) were lost and that's big, considering the Green Wave like to use multi-receiver formations.

Running backs Jovon Jackson and Matt Forte shared the team lead with 624 rushing yards each last season. Four experienced runners are back to boost a ground game that ranked 86th nationally and next to last in C-USA last season.

Scelfo believes his team's talent level and depth has been upgraded, but statistics indicate the defense is still suffering from growing pains. The Green Wave ranked 93rd in total defense, 96th in rushing defense and 99th in scoring defense last season, holding opponent below 24 points just twice.

Teams which give up lots of yards sometimes can minimize the damage by creating turnovers, but Tulane managed only 13 takeaways, second fewest in C-USA last season.

Perhaps a bit of experimentation in the linebacking corps will lead to defensive upgrade. Anthony Cannon, who produced at least 100 tackles in each of the previous three seasons, moved from outside linebacker to middle linebacker during spring drills.



# RICE

## OWLS



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.riceowls.com

Because of a grind-it-out option offense, few teams in college football are as dependent on field position as Rice. The Owls don't hit a lot of home runs. They nickel-and-dime their way down the field and the odds of scoring are a lot better when the offense has the luxury of traveling short distances.

Rice ranked last among Division I teams in net punting last year and the field position disadvantage sabotaged the Owls. Despite leading the Western Athletic Conference in time of possession and becoming the first WAC school ever to lead the nation in rushing, Rice ranked next to last among league teams in scoring offense. The Owls went 3-8 and closed the season with six straight defeats, the fourth-longest skid in the nation.

Coach Ken Hatfield didn't become the nation's fifth-winningest active coach by permitting subpar special teams play. And it's not just the punting unit that could use a tuneup. The Owls made a league-low 50 percent of field goal attempts last season.

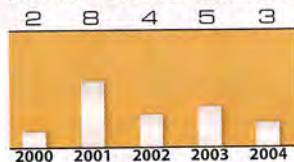
Of course, reaching the end zone more often would be preferable to kicking field goals, and Hatfield entered spring drills with the intent of incorporating more passing into the offense. Rice ranked last nationally in passing yards last season. Backfield experience could give the Owls the luxury of running more plays from a shotgun formation.

Hatfield, who dabbled with similar offensive tweaks three years ago, indicated he was led to revisit the idea because of the offensive success Utah had last season. "Several things they did looked like they would fit us," Hatfield says.

In Hatfield's best seasons at Rice, the common denominator has been consistent quarterback play. Sophomore quarterback Joel Armstrong started five of the final six games last season, and he was the team's second-leading and the WAC's 10th-leading rusher.

Fullback Ed Bailey, the fifth-leading rusher in Rice history, will be missed. But plenty of other experienced players are back to make the spread-option offense hum, including halfbacks Quinton Smith, Mike Falco and Thomas Lott Jr., son of the former Oklahoma wishbone quarterback.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	@UCLA	
S. 17	@TEXAS	13-35
S. 24	Navy	13-14
O. 1	@UAB	
O. 8	@EAST CAROLINA	
O. 15	Tulsa	22-39
O. 29	UTEP	28-35 (OT)
N. 5	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	44-10
N. 12	Tulane	
N. 19	UCF	
N. 26	@HOUSTON	10-7

Head coach: Ken Hatfield,  
12th Year (54-68-1)

Career Record: 167-130-4

Stadium: Rice Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 70,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/22

#### OFFENSE

QB	13 Joel Armstrong (5-11, 180, So.)
FB	25 Andrew Gates (5-11, 220, Jr.)
AB	44 Quinton Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.)
HB	22 Mike Falco (5-11, 220, Jr.)
LT	65 David Carter (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG	71 Cory Laxen (6-3, 290, Jr.)
C	52 David Perkins (6-3, 275, So.)
RG	63 David Berken (6-3, 280, Fr.)
RT	50 Rolf Krueger (6-4, 290, Jr.)
TE	87 Matt Bolding (6-3, 245, Jr.)
SE	81 Jared Dillard (6-0, 175, Fr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	47 John Syptak (6-2, 255, Sr.)
NG	97 William Wood (6-3, 300, Jr.)
DT	92 DeJaun Cooper (6-2, 305, Jr.)
DE	94 Rob Daniel (6-4, 245, Sr.)
WLB	48 Adam Herrin (6-0, 225, Sr.)
BAN	21 Chad Price (6-0, 205, Jr.)
SLB	49 Buck Casson (6-1, 215, So.)
CB	23 Jon Turner (5-9, 185, So.)
CB	8 Lance Byrd (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS	2 Andray Downs (5-9, 185, Jr.)
ROV	3 Matt Ginn (5-9, 180, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	41 Luke Juist (6-0, 200, So.)
P	85 Jared Scruggs (6-2, 190, Jr.)

# SMU

## MUSTANGS



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 3-5 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.smumustangs.com

When the 2006 season arrives, SMU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of an extraordinary accomplishment. Eric Dickerson and Craig James both ran for more than 1,000 yards in 1981. They gained national acclaim as the "Pony Express."

Nowadays, SMU coach Phil Bennett would settle for one horse to ride.

Bennett placed a priority on finding a feature back after last season, when a quarterback, Jerad Romo, was the team's leading rusher. Romo's 434 rushing yards were the fewest by an SMU rushing leader since Kevin Love ran for 423 in 1989.

Only once did an SMU player run for at least 100 yards in a game last season. Foy Munlin turned the trick at San Jose State's expense and Cedrick Dorsey flirted with a 100-yard game when he carried 10 times for 94 yards in an overtime victory over Tulsa.

"Last season we saw some things we really liked in Cedrick Dorsey and he played most of the year with injuries," Bennett says. "I want to see how he holds up and how he's matured."

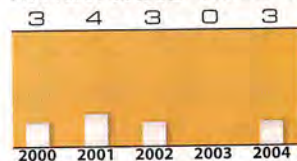
If maturity is contagious, perhaps SMU will be a pleasant surprise in its inaugural year of Conference USA membership. The Mustangs were billed as the nation's youngest team last season, when the 112-man roster was populated with 57 freshmen and 28 sophomores.

The youth movement contributed to a 1-7 start, and questions about Bennett's job security surfaced. But the Mustangs won two of their final three games and Bennett, who has a 6-29 career record, enters his fourth season with the belief that his team will be much improved.

SMU returns 11 offensive starters and nine defensive starters. Competition is such that incumbents will have to fight to keep their jobs. One of the most closely watched competitions will be a quarterback battle. Former starter Chris Phillips is back after sitting out a medical redshirt season. Tony Eckert threw for more than 1,400 yards in '04, most by an SMU quarterback in four years, and Romo provided a changeup.

Bennett, who has juggled quarterbacks in the past, would like to see one of them take charge and rev up an offense which produced WAC-lows of 26 touchdowns and seven field goals last season.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Baylor	
S. 10	TCU	0-44
S. 17	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 24	Tulane	
O. 1	@MARSHALL	
O. 8	@UAB	
O. 15	East Carolina	
O. 22	@TULSA	41-35 (OT)
N. 5	Rice	10-44
N. 12	@HOUSTON	
N. 26	UTEP	27-57

Head coach: Phil Bennett,  
4th Year (6-29)

Career Record: 6-29

Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 32,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 22  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/11

#### OFFENSE

QB	4 Tony Eckert (6-2, 215, Sr.)
HB	23 Cedrick Dorsey (5-11, 195, So.)
TB	1 Fred Turner (5-10, 170, So.)
LT	71 Martin Guldry (6-4, 285, Jr.)
LG	50 Caleb Pevetto (6-4, 285, Sr.)
C	66 Ben Poynter (6-4, 280, So.)
RG	62 Brad Kieschnick (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RT	58 Darrin Johnson (6-6, 292, Jr.)
TE	89 Ryan Kennedy (6-5, 265, Jr.)
WR	82 Bobby Chase (6-4, 210, Jr.)
WR	28 Chris Foster (5-11, 183, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	11 Cory Muse (6-3, 230, So.)
NG	56 Brandon Bonds (6-1, 305, Jr.)
DT	94 Adrain Haywood (6-3, 275, Jr.)
DE	40 Justin Rogers (6-4, 240, Jr.)
WLB	5 Wilton McCray (6-0, 195, Fr.)
MLB	35 D.D. Lee (6-1, 235, Sr.)
SLB	27 Alvin Nnabuife (6-1, 207, Sr.)
CB	26 Rolando Humphrey (5-9, 175, Jr.)
CB	21 Jonathan Lindley (6-0, 180, Fr.)
FS	10 Randall Goode (5-11, 190, Jr.)
SS	16 Jamey Harper (6-0, 190, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	31 Chris McMurtry (6-1, 235, Sr.)
P	41 Ryan Mentzel (6-0, 200, Sr.)



Games to watch:

- >> **USC at Oregon**, Sept. 24  
Could be the Trojans' toughest test of the season.
- >> **Cal at UCLA**, Oct. 8  
The Bears hung 45 points and 550 yards on their sister school last season.
- >> **Arizona State at Washington State**, Nov. 5  
A good bet for 90 points and multiple overtimes.

official conference website:  
[www.pac-10.org](http://www.pac-10.org)



## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

### Offense

QB	Matt Leinart, Sr., USC
RB	Reggie Bush, Jr., USC
RB	Marshawn Lynch, So., Cal
OL	Sam Baker, So., USC
OL	Ryan O'Callaghan, Sr., Cal
OL	Marvin Philip, Sr., Cal
OL	Grayling Love, Sr., Arizona State
OL	Mike McCloskey, Sr., UCLA
WR	Derek Hagan, Sr., Arizona State
WR	Mike Haas, Sr., Oregon State
TE	Zach Miller, So., Arizona State
PK	Justin Medlock, Jr. UCLA

### Defense

OL	Maloti Ngata, Jr., Oregon
OL	Babatunde Oshinowo, Sr., Stanford
OL	Lawrence Jackson, So., USC
OL	Devan Long, Sr., Oregon
LB	Jon Alston, Sr., Stanford
LB	Will Derting, Sr., Washington St.
LB	Spencer Havner, Sr., UCLA
DB	Darrell Brooks, Sr., Arizona
DB	Darnell Bing, Jr., USC
DB	Jarrad Page, Sr., UCLA
DB	Sabby Piscitelli, Jr., Oregon St.
P	Tom Malone, Sr., USC

## Southern Cal Trojans reducing league in size by their sheer brilliance on the field

By Jon Wilner  
San Jose Mercury-News

From 1968 to 1978, the conference was known as the Pac-8. Then the Arizona schools came on board and it became the Pac-10. What we have this year is an average of the two: the Pac-9.

There's USC at the top, and then there's a pack of nine teams playing from behind.

The Trojans might have been the national champions last season, but they almost yielded control of the conference to Cal in an October classic in which the Bears came within inches of the winning touchdown on the game's final play.

This season, there isn't anyone as good as Cal was last season, yet USC remains a powerhouse—perhaps even better offensively than it was in '04.

The result is a two-tier league, with the Trojans helmet-and-shoulder pads above everyone else. Cal would be the odds-on favorite to challenge the Trojans if junior quarterback Aaron Rodgers hadn't left for the NFL.

Oregon might be the best bet to finish second, but the Ducks don't have enough playmakers to hang with USC for three months.

Arizona State has a ton of returning talent, but the Sun Devils are breaking in a new quarterback and have off-field issues clouding the program.

UCLA has a solid combination of talent and experience, but the Bruins haven't proven they can win consistently in November under coach Karl Dorrell.

Washington State and Oregon State are somewhere between rebuilding and refining, good enough to finish fourth but no better.

Arizona, Washington and Stanford are hoping to become bowl-eligible.

In other words: there's no one to push the Trojans, no one to make them sweat until the final play, no one to make them grind until the regular-season finale. Don't be surprised if USC becomes the first team since Washington in 1991 to win the league by more than one game. Those Huskies went down as one of the greatest teams in Pac-8 or Pac-10 history.

So might these Trojans.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Steve Smith, USC
Best hands	Mike Haas, WR, Oregon State
Best passing QB	Matt Leinart, USC
Best running QB	Isalah Stanback, Washington
Most elusive RB	Reggie Bush, USC
Best instincts	Marshawn Lynch, RB, Cal
Best athlete	Reggie Bush, RB, USC
Best under pressure	Matt Leinart, QB, USC
Top NFL prospect	Reggie Bush, RB, USC
Top impact freshman	Roy Mauluga, LB, USC
Hardest hitter	Will Derting, LB, Washington State
Biggest underachiever	Michael Craven, LB, Stanford

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Jeff Tedford, Cal
Best recruiter	Pete Carroll, USC
Coach on the spot	Dirk Koetter, Arizona State

### Don't be surprised if ...

The league has only two teams ranked in the Top 25 at the end of the regular season (USC and Oregon) but sends seven to bowl games: USC, Oregon, UCLA, ASU, Cal, Washington State and Oregon State.

### One man's opinion

"If you're a USC fan, or just a college football fan, we think it'll be fun to watch us play."

—USC coach Pete Carroll

### Rating the recruits

- 1. USC**  
Signed more SuperPrep Top 100 players than anyone else (10), including the nation's top-rated quarterback and receiver.
- 2. Cal**  
Went heavy on jucos to bolster depleted defense. Also landed the West's best WR in DeSean Jackson.
- 3. Arizona**  
Second-year coach Mike Stoops brought in first-rate class, although there are no five-star players.
- 4. Oregon**  
Ducks landed the top RB in the West, Jonathan Stewart, and got help at receiver, too.
- 5. Arizona State**  
Another JC-heavy class, but prep QB Derek Shaw makes this a top-30 haul nationally.
- 6. UCLA**  
Hammered by USC once again, but Bruins did get BYU transfer Ben Olson, the former prep wunderkind.
- 7. Stanford**  
Coaching change had a positive impact. Defensive tackle Ekem Udofia is the prized catch in Walt Harris' first class.
- 8. Washington State**  
Cougs got help on the defensive line but success depends on whether Arkelon Hall eventually becomes a top-flight QB.
- 9. Oregon State**  
Landed two cornerbacks—the Beavers' greatest need—who originally signed with Texas and Oklahoma.
- 10. Washington**  
Coaching change hurt the Huskies badly. It will take several years to recover.



Reggie Bush, USC



# Tailgate Time

Show your school spirit with all of these great tailgating accessories! These items make the perfect gift for the diehard college football fan; order yours today for delivery before kick-off!



**Rolling Cooler:** Make the party portable with this great cooler featuring smooth rolling in-line wheels and a zippered storage compartment. The heavy duty nylon exterior wraps a foam-insulated, heat-sealed interior that will hold 36 12 ounce cans plus ice. Available in select schools only. **\$49.95 + \$7 shipping**



**Gym Bag:** This heavy-duty 100% nylon bag measures 21" x 11" x 12" and can be attached to your rolling luggage handle. The large front pocket includes holders for pens, ID, and coins; and there is a separate bottom compartment for tennis shoes. The bag is offered in school colors with embroidered school logo on front of bag. Available in select schools only. **\$29.95 + \$7 shipping**



**Picnic Cooler:** This spacious cooler (18" l x 9" w x 11" h) provides heat or cold retention for all foods and beverages. Collapsible, lightweight nylon construction, with leak proof heat-sealed insulated liner. The cooler features the school logo embroidered on front, and it has an adjustable shoulder strap for carrying. **\$29.95 + \$7 shipping**



**Sphere Chair:** This chair is perfect for television or video-games, and it fits perfectly into game room or dorm room. The chair measures 30" in diameter and stands 29" tall and has a comfortable foam-filled 27" round seating area. The frame is powder-coated steel and it folds flat for storage or transport. The seat cover is polyester with the school logo screen-printed on the front. **\$49.95 + \$10 shipping**



**Adult Chair:** Adult size tailgate folding chair has comfortable 18" x 22" seat and padded back. School logos are printed on chair front and chair back, and there is a cup holder on armrest with storage pocket behind chair back. Fabric is 900 denier double layer nylon, frames are durable powder coated steel tubing-holds up to 300 pounds. Each chair comes with a water resistant storage case featuring the school logo. **\$32.95 + \$7 shipping**



**Tailgate Table:** Sturdy but lightweight construction, the table measures 6 ft. long and 3 ft. wide when open. Legs fold inside and table folds in half to a 3 foot square for storage. The table features a lock to hold closed and exterior carrying handle for ease of transport. The table top is screen-printed with official school logos similar to school's football field. Available in select schools only. **\$149.95 + \$20 shipping**



**Trashcan Cooler:** The collapsible, lightweight container is perfect as a trashcan, laundry hamper or beverage container. Features carrying handles and zipper lid to keep contents enclosed and unwanted pests out. The leak-proof, heat-sealed liner is designed to hold liquids and ice. The cooler stand 19" tall and is 16.5" in diameter. **\$21.95 + \$7 shipping**



**Tailgate Tent:** This large 9' x 9' official school color tent is made of water resistant 420 denier polyester and features school logos on all 4 sides. The tent features 6 feet height clearance but retracts to four feet for easy moving and storage. The heavy duty frame is constructed of powder coated steel and bolted joints. The tent includes ground stakes a nylon carrying case. Easy set up for two people on game day! Available in select schools only. **\$229.95 + \$20 shipping**

School availability: All Big 10, Big 12, ACC (except Boston College), SEC (except Vandy), Pac 10 (except Stanford and UCLA), most Big East, Conference USA, Notre Dame and many others. Call for availability.

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MATT LEINART, QB



# SOUTHERN CAL

## TROJANS



LOS ANGELES

**2004 Record:** 13-0 overall, 8-0 Pac-10 (beat Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, 55-19)  
**Stadium:** Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum **Turf:** Grass **Capacity:** 92,000  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.usctrojans.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Pete Carroll, 5th Year (42-9) **Career Record:** 42-9  
**Assistant coaches:** Greg Burns (secondary), Brennan Carroll (TEs), Jethro Franklin (def. line), Lane Kiffin (off. coord./WRs/recruiting coord.), Todd McNair (RBs), Ken Norton Jr. (LBs), Pat Ruel (off. line), Steve Sarkisian (asst. head coach/QBs), Rocky Seto (LBs)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@HAWAII	
S. 17	Arkansas	
S. 24	@OREGON	
O. 1	@ARIZONA STATE	45-7
O. 8	Arizona	49-9
O. 15	@NOTRE DAME	41-10
O. 22	@WASHINGTON	38-0
O. 29	Washington State	42-12
N. 5	Stanford	31-28
N. 12	@CALIFORNIA	23-17
N. 19	Fresno State	
D. 3	UCLA	29-24

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 51/17

#### OFFENSE

QB	11 Matt Leinart (6-5, 225, Sr.)
FB	37 David Kirtman (6-0, 225, Sr.)
TB	5 Reggie Bush (6-0, 200, Jr.)
LT	79 Sam Baker (6-5, 290, So.)
LG	53 Jeff Byers (6-3, 275, So.)
C	67 Ryan Kalil (6-4, 275, Jr.)
RG	51 Fred Matua (6-2, 305, Jr.)
RT	74 Winston Justice (6-6, 300, Jr.)
TE	86 Dominique Byrd (6-3, 260, Sr.)
SE	8 Dwayne Jarrett (6-5, 195, So.)
FL	2 Steve Smith (6-1, 195, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	96 Lawrence Jackson (6-5, 270, So.)
NT	49 Sedrick Ellis (6-2, 275, So.)
DT	98 LaJuan Ramsey (6-3, 285, Sr.)
DE	90 Frostee Rucker (6-4, 255, Sr.)
WLB	55 Keith Rivers (6-3, 220, So.)
MLB	45 Oscar Lua (6-2, 240, Jr.)
SLB	42 Dallas Sartz (6-5, 220, Sr.)
CB	24 Justin Wyatt (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	28 Terrell Thomas (6-2, 195, So.)
FS	29 Scott Ware (6-3, 220, Jr.)
SS	20 Darrell Bing (6-2, 220, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	19 Mario Danelo (5-10, 210, So.)
P	14 Tom Malone (6-0, 190, Sr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Mark Sanchez, QB**  
Top-rated QB in country; USC's next Heisman?
- Patrick Turner, WR**  
Mike Williams, then Dwayne Jarrett, now Turner.
- Averell Spicer, DE**  
Oklahoma? No. LSU? No. USC? Of course.
- Rey Mauluga, LB**  
One of the Trojans' three All-World LB recruits.
- Cary Harris, CB**  
He and Kevin Thomas have a chance to play now.

## Despite some offseason upheaval, you'd be crazy to pick against these terrific Trojans

**F**rom the office of Careful-What-You-Wish-For, Southern California division, here's what USC coach Pete Carroll had to say prior to spring practice:

"It's an exciting challenge to be the returning national champion, and we look forward to everything that goes with that."

Consider what happened to the Trojans after they slammed Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl to cap a 13-0 season: Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Matt Leinart decided to return to school for his senior year. Then the ego-driven rift between offensive coordinator Norm Chow and Carroll became public and Chow left for the same post with the NFL's Tennessee Titans. Suddenly facing life without his mentor, a frustrated Leinart reportedly considered applying for the NFL's supplemental draft, but denied it.

Then USC announced that several players, including tailback LenDale White, tight end Dominique Byrd, defensive end Frostee Rucker and defensive tackle Manuel Wright, would not participate in spring practice because of academic issues. All are in danger of being ineligible for the season.

Then starting cornerback Eric Wright was arrested on suspicion of rape. He was freed on bail and charges were eventually dropped, but is not expected to rejoin the team.

Then Byrd fractured his jaw in a fight with receiver Steve Smith. They were playing a video game, started arguing about money and came to blows. The result: Byrd's jaw had to be wired shut, but he got his \$200.

Then Manuel Wright, faced with being ineligible, applied for the supplemental NFL Draft. His application was approved and he hired an agent.

Then White, the starting tailback, learned of disparaging remarks made about him by freshman running back Michael Coleman. He went after Coleman in the locker room but was restrained by teammates. Coleman was then ordered to stop talking to the press.

And that was all before tax day.

But like the Miami Hurricane teams of the late 1980s and early 1990s—and like the Lakers of the early 2000s—the Trojans might be talented enough to overcome the shenanigans and win their fourth straight Pacific-10 Conference title.

They might be talented enough to overcome the loss of several key assistant coaches, including Chow, defensive line coach Ed Orgeron and offensive line coach Tim Davis, and win an unprecedented third consecutive national title.

They might be talented enough to overcome the loss of four defensive all-Americans—tackles Shaun Cody and Mike Patterson and linebackers and Matt Grootegoed and Lofa Tatupu—and take their 22-game winning streak into the mid-30s.

"In previous years, we have shown the ability to deal with the loss of great players," Carroll says. "I'm confident we have the personnel who will seize their opportunities."

Yes, the Trojans are still loaded, thanks to four brilliant recruiting seasons. They have eight starters returning on offense—don't be surprised if USC leads the nation in scoring—and six on defense. They have a bevy of future first-round draft picks in the starting lineup and a litany of Parade All-Americans on the bench.

Southern Cal is so talented that its Heisman Trophy winner, Leinart, isn't even the best offensive player on the team. That tag goes to wondrous tailback Reggie Bush, who has a knack for turning nothing plays into 60-yard touchdowns.

Despite starting just one game last season—the powerful White rushed for over 1,100 yards—Bush finished fifth in the Heisman voting, gained 2,330 all-purpose yards and scored 16 touchdowns: six rushing, seven receiving, one passing and two on punt returns. His impact on the game is immeasurable.

"Reggie creates problems wherever he lines up because of his speed and elusiveness, because teams always have to pay extra attention," Carroll says. "He has the potential to score every time he touches the ball."

That could also be said of Smith, he of the video-game fight and blazing speed; of receiver Dwayne Jarrett, who had 13 touchdowns as a freshman in '04 and is considered the next Mike Williams; and of Byrd, the 260-pound tight end.

And what of the offensive line, you may ask? Poor Trojans. They only return four starters, including tackle Sam Baker and tackle/guard Taitusi Lutui. What's more, the Trojans welcome back right tackle Winston Justice, who would have been a starter last season but was suspended because of a student conduct violation. He regained his starting spot in spring practice.

"Our line basically returns intact, and it's the best depth we've had since I've been here," Carroll says.





And they'll be blocking for one of the most accomplished college quarterbacks in history. Leinart is hoping to add a second Heisman and third national title to his resume. Assuming he recovers from off-season elbow surgery—some believe the elbow, not school spirit, is the reason he bypassed the NFL Draft—Leinart should have a terrific season.

Whether it's an historic season depends on how the Trojans handle Chow's departure. Receivers coach Lane Kiffin was promoted to offensive coordinator, and Steve Sarkisian, a Chow protégé, was hired away from the Oakland Raiders to coach the quarterbacks. He'll probably spend more time with the highly touted backups, John David Booty, Rocky Hinds and Matt Sanchez, than with Leinart.

Then again, does it really matter who's playing quarterback or calling the plays? The Trojans have enough talent to average 40 points a game with Leinart the Frog running the show.

But if USC has anything close to a weakness, it's the defensive front seven. The Trojans must replace tight tackles Cody and Patterson and Manuel Wright, too. Watch for a breakout season from sophomore Sedrick Ellis, but he can't do it alone.

The Trojans converted offensive tackle Travis Draper to defense; whether he becomes a consistent contributor remains to be seen. The end spots are secure, with returnees Frostee Rucker and Lawrence Jackson, plus sophomore sack master Jeff Schweiger.

USC also lost two-thirds of its linebacking corps with the departures of Grootegeod and Tatupu. Steady Dallas Sartz is back, but he's not an uber-talent. On the other

hand, there are several young players—including sophomore Keith Rivers and a stellar freshman class that includes Ray Mauluga—who could emerge as the next Tatupu and Grootegeod.

"Dallas Sartz needs to take over a leadership role," Carroll says, "while the others need to step up in a hurry."

The secondary should be solid, with two-year starter Darnell Bing manning the strong safety spot. Cornerback Justin Wyatt missed spring practice because of a sports hernia but is expected to be ready for training camp.

The Trojans have an issue at the other corner because of Eric Wright's indefinite suspension for alleged rape. One intriguing possibility is adding DeSean Cunningham, a sprinter on the track team. Freshmen Kevin Thomas and Cary Harris could make an immediate impact.

"We were a very dominating defense last year, but this year we have some big issues to deal with," Carroll says. "Our defensive philosophy will remain the same: play fast, play aggressively and take away the football."

The return of All-America punter Tom Malone should help the reloading defense; he can kick the opponent into bad field position. But USC won't have much time to find its groove; the schedule is front-loaded, with trips to Oregon and Arizona State in the first month.

If the Trojans survive those tests, they should cruise into the Rose Bowl—not only as leaders of the Pac-10 but also as a national title contender.

The Granddaddy plays host to the BCS Championship Game.

## IN PROFILE ... REGGIE BUSH

*The end zone is the first place to look for Trojans' Heisman candidate on field*

Sure, Matt Leinart won the Heisman Trophy last season. But, according to Leinart and his USC teammates, the Trojans' MVP was Reggie Bush.

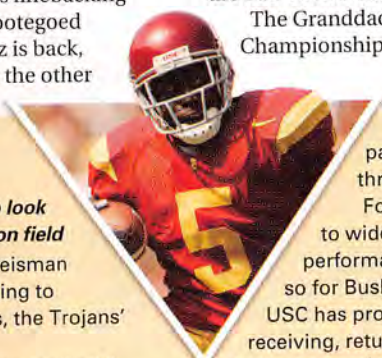
"He's the best player in college football," Leinart, the team's all-everything quarterback, told reporters just before USC trounced Oklahoma in the national championship game. "I voted for him. I didn't even hesitate."

As for Bush, a 6-foot, 200-pound junior all-purpose running back, he'll still face steep competition for team Heisman honors in 2005, as Leinart has returned for another season at USC. Bush finished fifth in Heisman voting last season.

Nicknamed "The President" after being acknowledged by W. himself following the team's White House visit in March 2004—an invitation spurred by USC's shared national title the previous season—Bush took the compliment to heart.

Off the field, for example, the former psychology major has switched to, yes, political science. Does this portend political aspirations? "No, it's just because it's easier," Bush says, chuckling.

Having already secured presidential praise, Bush got plenty of Beltway love with a sterling performance at Washington's FedEx Field, where USC opened the season last August against Virginia Tech. He dominated the game, hauling in five



passes for 127 yards and scoring three touchdowns in a 24-13 win.

For most running backs, moving to wideout and putting on such a performance would be surprising. Not so for Bush, who during two seasons at USC has produced touchdowns by rushing, receiving, returning punts, returning kickoffs and even passing.

During 2004, Bush's multitasking added up to 2,330 all-purpose yards and 15 touchdowns.

"We asked Reggie to sacrifice some of his running back stuff to help us out with our receivers," says Todd McNair, USC's running backs coach. "He had to give up some carries. One of the things we're working on is his patience. He does so many things that he expects to score every time he gets the ball. As a runner, you have to let things develop."

And that's about as much criticism as McNair can muster. Bush, by all accounts, is an affable, hard-working superstar.

Affable to all except opposing defenses, that is. Experts say Bush may be the most disruptive force in all of college football.

"Watch when he's on the field and watch all the pointing that goes on from the defense when he's on the field," says TBS analyst Charles Davis. "You see everybody moving and jumping and pointing: 'There he is, over there, there he is!'"

In the end, finding Bush isn't that hard, after all. Just look in the end zone.

—Erik Spanberg

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	USC	OPP
SCORING	496	169
Points Per Game	38.2	13.0
FIRST DOWNS	292	201
Rushing	123	66
Passing	150	124
Penalty	19	11
RUSHING YARDAGE	2306	1032
Yards gained rushing	2646	1561
Yards lost rushing	340	529
Rushing Attempts	493	394
Average Per Rush	4.7	2.6
Average Per Game	177.4	79.4
TDs Rushing	27	5
PASSING YARDAGE	3532	2599
Att-Comp-Int	430-282-7	457-246-22
Average Per Pass	8.2	5.7
Average Per Catch	12.5	10.6
Average Per Game	271.7	199.9
TDs Passing	34	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5838	3631
Total Plays	923	851
Average Per Play	6.3	4.3
Average Per Game	449.1	279.3
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	29-687	45-952
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-406	22-203
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-358	7-75
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.7	21.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.5	9.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.3	10.7
FUMBLES-LOST	26-12	33-16
PENALTIES-YARDS	73-587	77-554
Average Per Game	45.2	42.6
PUNTS-YARDS	51-2165	85-3691
Average Per Punt	42.5	43.4
Net punt average	38.5	38.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:43	28:17
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/182	54/190
3rd-Down Pct	43%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/21	10/19
4th-Down Pct	52%	53%
SACKS BY-YARDS	50-344	25-176
MISC YARDS	32	4
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	64	20
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	16-25	10-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	64-64	17-18
ATTENDANCE	511373	279188
Games/Avg Per Game	6/85229	5/55838
Neutral Site Games		2/84788

SCORE BY QTRS*	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
USC	96	176	114	110	—	496
Opponents	33	71	39	26	—	169

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Matt Leinart

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	156.54	412-269-6	65.3	3322	33	255.5

#### Matt Cassel

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	115.34	14-10-1	71.4	97	0	10.8

### RUSHING

Rushing	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
LenDale White	13	203	1103	5.4	15	84.8
Reggie Bush	13	143	908	6.3	6	69.8

### RECEIVING

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dwayne Jarrett	13	55	849	15.4	13	65.3
Reggie Bush	13	43	509	11.8	7	39.2
Steve Smith	8	42	660	15.7	6	82.5

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

PLAYERS	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Lofa Tatupu	13	57	47	104
Matt Grootegeod	13	42	26	68
Darnell Bing	12	43	20	63

### SACKS

Shaun Cody	13	10.0	88
Mike Patterson	13	6.0	39
Lawrence Jackson	13	6.0	31

### INTERCEPTIONS

Matt Grootegeod	5	107	21.4	0
Jason Leach	3	20	6.7	0
Lofa Tatupu	3	38	12.7	0





TERRENCE WHITEHEAD, TB

# O OREGON DUCKS



EUGENE, OR

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 Pac-10

Stadium: Autzen Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 54,000

Official athletic Web site: [www.goducks.com](http://www.goducks.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mike Bellotti, 11th Year (80-40) Career Record: 101-65-2

Assistant coaches: Neal Zoumboukos (asst. head coach/off. line), Nick Aliotti (def. coord.), Gary Campbell (RBs), Dan Ferrigno (WRs), Steve Greatwood (def. line), John Neal (secondary), Don Pellum (LBs), Michael Gray (def. line), Gary Crowton (off. coord.)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@HOUSTON	
S. 10	Montana	
S. 17	Fresno State	
S. 24	USC	
O. 1	@STANFORD	16-13
O. 8	@ARIZONA STATE	13-28
O. 15	Washington	31-6
O. 22	@ARIZONA	28-14
N. 5	California	27-28
N. 12	@WASHINGTON STATE	41-38
N. 19	Oregon State	21-50

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15

Lettermen returning/lost: 42/24

### OFFENSE

QB	11 Kellen Clemens (6-2, 218, Sr.)
TB	24 Terrence Whitehead (5-10, 220, Sr.)
HB	82 Dan Kause (6-4, 245, Jr.)
LT	60 Max Unger (6-5, 291, r-Fr.)
LG	77 Palauni Ma Sun (6-5, 365, Jr.)
C	55 Enoch Lucas (6-3, 296, Jr.)
RG	59 Ian Reynoso (6-4, 305, Sr.)
RT	75 Geoff Schwartz (6-7, 351, So.)
TE	85 Tim Day (6-4, 265, Sr.)
WR	6 Demetrius Williams (6-2, 191, Sr.)
WR	18 James Finley (6-2, 206, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	92 Devan Long (6-4, 266, Sr.)
LT	96 Haloti Ngata (6-5, 338, Jr.)
RT	45 Matt Toeaina (6-3, 279, Jr.)
RE	56 Victor Filipe (6-2, 275, Jr.)
LB	34 A.J. Tuitele (5-11, 210, So.)
LB	42 Brent Haberly (6-0, 220, Jr.)
ROV	15 Patrick Chung (5-11, 197, r-Fr.)
LCB	5 Aaron Gipson (5-9, 179, Sr.)
RCB	31 Justin Phinisee (5-11, 200, Sr.)
FS	28 J.D. Nelson (5-11, 211, Jr.)
SS	84 Anthony Trucks (6-1, 226, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	36 Paul Martinez (6-2, 215, Jr.)
P	14 Matt Dragich (6-1, 22, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Jonathan Stewart, RB  
Best incoming running back in the conference.
- James Finley, WR  
At 6-foot-3, could be a dominant possession receiver.
- Jason Turner, LB  
Desperate for linebackers, the Ducks signed three from JCs.
- Edward Dickson, TE  
Says he had offers from Oklahoma and USC.
- Palauni Ma Sun, OL  
JC transfer could play immediately.

DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTSPICS

## Bellotti chunks comfort zone in favor off new look on offense

Last season, Boise State, California and Arizona State ranked fourth, fifth and 16th in the country, respectively, in total offense. Among them, they averaged 1,419 yards per game. But the teams had more in common than production. Their offensive systems were fraternal twins—each a variant of what has become known on the West Coast as the “Oregon offense.”

The connections make perfect sense, given that Cal coach Jeff Tedford, Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter and Boise play-caller Chris Petersen are all former Ducks assistants.

Since the mid-1980s, the Oregon offense has been based on several principles: a commitment to protecting the quarterback, a moving pocket, misdirection plays (i.e., screens and play-action) and an ability to strike short and long. It has been tweaked and refined over the years, but the fundamentals remain the same, whether they are being applied in Boise, Tempe or Berkeley.

What’s different this season is that Oregon will no longer be running the Oregon offense. That’s right, after the Ducks’ first losing season

in 12 years, coach Mike Bellotti has ditched his traditional attack in favor of its longtime rival for West Coast aerial supremacy: the spread offense, long favored by Washington State and Oregon State and made popular in recent years by Utah.

It is a tectonic shift—nearly on the order of the Ducks switching from Nike to Adidas. Yet Bellotti felt it was time for change and orchestrated a series of staff changes that included offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig leaving for the same post at Utah. Bellotti then hired former Brigham Young coach Gary Crowton to install the spread.

“I’ve said for a couple years that we need to look at some alternate schemes because our constituency, our athletes, have changed and what we’re seeing [from defenses] has changed,” Bellotti says. “Gary has more of a background in a spread offense and our quarterbacks are mobile, and we need to put them in situations where they will have more run [or] pass opportunities.

“It’s going to be a mix of what Oregon has done in the past and some things Gary did at BYU that fit in perfectly with what we’ve gleaned from Utah.”

The new offense is the most significant but hardly the only change implemented by Bellotti, who was discouraged by Oregon’s performance last season. The Ducks opened with a home loss to Indiana, closed with a 31-point loss at Oregon State and finished 5-6—missing a bowl bid for the first time since 1996. The most frustrating thing for Duck fans was to watch their team win four in a row midway through the season, only to finish oh-for-November.

“We didn’t accomplish our goals last [season], and we can’t look anywhere but to ourselves, both as a coaching staff and a team, for the reason,” Bellotti says. “The bottom line is we have enough talent to compete and do what we need to do. We weren’t tough enough last year, we did not make plays when it counted, we made too many mistakes and we committed too many penalties.”

But this season—with seven starters back on offense and defense, with the No. 2 quarterback in the conference, a 1,000-yard rusher, the best defensive lineman in the West, a veteran secondary and favorable schedule—the Ducks are a solid bet to finish second to USC.

Of course, much of their success depends on executing the spread offense. The man at the controls, senior Kellen Clemens, threw for 2,548 yards and 22 touchdowns last season and enters the fall as arguably the second-best quarterback in



HALOTI NGATA, LT

PAC-10



the conference behind USC's Matt Leinart. He has the right combination of accuracy and mobility to operate the attack.

He also has one of the league's better tailbacks, senior Terrence Whitehead, who averaged 104 yards per game last season. (Whitehead had offseason knee surgery and was held out of contact drills in spring practice.) The Ducks return just two starters on the line in center Enoka Lucas and guard Ian Reynoso, but that's part of the reason Bellotti switched to the spread. In theory, Clemens will unload the ball quicker, thus relieving pressure on the pass blockers.

But the success of the spread will depend largely on the receivers. Instead of needing two productive wideouts, Oregon needs a minimum of three and preferably four. Expectations are high for senior Demetrius Williams, who caught 47 passes in '04, and for sophomore Cameron Colvin, a prized recruit two years ago who averaged 13.6 yards per catch as a rookie. The Ducks bolstered the unit in the offseason when they signed James Finley from Compton (Calif.) Community College. They also have a playmaker in tight end Tim Day.

Just as the Ducks are strong in the offensive backfield, so are they strong in the defensive backfield. All four starters return to the secondary, including cornerback Aaron Gipson and free safety J.D. Nelson. That experience will allow defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti to play man-to-man cover and blitz his linebackers—the same approach he used so successfully in the mid-1990s with lockdown cornerbacks Kenny Wheaton and Alex Molden.

The Ducks have also replaced an outside linebacker with a third safety, making it appear as if they're in a 4-2-5 alignment. But Bellotti says the extra safety will function like a linebacker.

## IN PROFILE ... KELLEN CLEMENS

*With Crowton on board to coordinate, senior's talents set to be unleashed*

Like everyone else in the Oregon football program, senior quarterback Kellen Clemens considers the 2004 season a nightmare—and an aberration.

The Ducks' 5-6 record snapped a seven-year run of bowl appearances, prompting coach Mike Bellotti to hand Clemens more responsibility in an offseason offensive overhaul.

In: Gary Crowton, the attacking mastermind whose previous stops include head-coaching stints at Louisiana Tech and BYU and coordinating the Chicago Bears' offense.

Out: Anything resembling conservative football.

"Kellen is mobile, tough and an accurate passer," Bellotti says. "What we want to see is how we can make that translate into more wins. One of the ways we think that can happen is with the spread offense, by opening things up."

Clemens didn't have a shabby season in 2004. He completed 223 of 372 attempts, good for 22 TDs and 2,548 yards. He threw 10 interceptions, though, including three in a humiliating season-

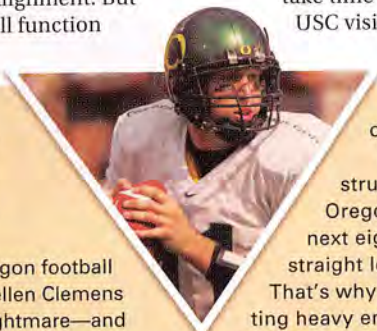
opening home loss to Indiana. After that game, the Ducks struggled to get back on track. Oregon rallied to go 5-3 over the next eight games, but faded with three straight losses to close the season.

That's why Bellotti and Clemens are putting heavy emphasis on the season opener against Houston. "We need to win that first one because it really sets the tone," Clemens says. "That's what's on my mind. And the other thing is how much fun we had during spring practice. We tried so many new things and it's going to be exciting to see how we use those things once we start playing games."

Bellotti expects Clemens to pick up the new offense quickly. After all, it's similar to the system he used during his prep days in Burns, Ore., where Clemens gained national attention during a stellar career.

Says TBS college football analyst Charles Davis: "You can't have a more exciting time to be quarterback than what is happening at Oregon right now. You don't bring in Gary Crowton to be buttoned-down. I think it shakes out very well for Kellen Clemens."

—Erik Spanberg



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## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OREGON	OPP
SCORING	282	282
Points Per Game	25.6	25.6
FIRST DOWNS	237	208
Rushing	101	73
Passing	118	115
Penalty	18	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1746	1343
Yards gained rushing	2056	1751
Yards lost rushing	310	408
Rushing Attempts	429	406
Average Per Rush	4.1	3.3
Average Per Game	158.7	122.1
TDs Rushing	12	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2621	2385
Att-Comp-Int	388-229-10	344-182-13
Average Per Pass	6.8	6.9
Average Per Catch	11.4	13.1
Average Per Game	238.3	216.8
TDs Passing	22	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	4367	3728
Total Plays	817	750
Average Per Play	5.3	5.0
Average Per Game	397.0	338.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	42-794	48-1031
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	31-345	24-245
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-155	10-88
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.9	21.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.1	10.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	11.9	8.8
FUMBLES-LOST	23-14	13-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	95-877	66-582
Average Per Game	79.7	52.9
PUNTS-YARDS	61-2307	60-2476
Average Per Punt	37.8	41.3
Net punt average	33.8	35.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:08	28:52
3RD-DOWN CONV.	61/159	69/168
3rd-Down Pct	38%	41%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/21	4/10
4th-Down Pct	52%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-221	41-221
MISC YARDS	8	11
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	37	33
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-14	17-26
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-35	31-32
ATTENDANCE	348352	255598
Games/Avg Per Game	6/58059	5/51120
Neutral Site Games		0/0

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oregon	85	57	72	68	—	282
Opponents	75	71	74	62	—	282

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Kellen Clemens

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	131.62	372-223-10	59.9	2548	22	231.6

#### Dennis Dixon

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	80.88	15-6-0	40.0	73	0	12.2

### RUSHING

T.Whitehead	11	200	1144	5.7	6	104.0
Kellen Clemens	11	118	190	1.6	4	17.3
Ken Washington	11	48	161	3.4	1	14.6

### RECEIVING

D. Williams	10	47	593	12.6	2	59.3
T.Whitehead	11	44	405	9.2	2	36.8
Tim Day	11	35	457	13.1	8	41.5

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

GP	Solo	Ast.	Total	
Jerry Matson	11	50	28	78
J.D. Nelson	11	39	27	66
Ramone Reed	11	38	26	64

### SACKS

Devan Long	11	7.5	56
Anthony Trucks	11	6.5	47
Chris Solomona	11	5.0	27

### INTERCEPTIONS

Aaron Gipson	4	39	9.8	0
Chris Solomona	2	44	22.0	2
Ramone Reed	2	13	6.5	0





DREW OLSON, QB



**UCLA**  
BRUINS

LOS ANGELES

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 4-4 Pac-10 (lost to Wyoming in the Las Vegas Bowl, 24-21)  
Stadium: Rose Bowl Turf: Grass Capacity: 91,500  
Official athletic Web site: www.uclabruins.com

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Karl Dorrell, 3rd Year (12-13) Career Record: 12-13  
Assistant coaches: Tom Cable (off. coord./off. line), Larry Kerr (def. coord./LBs), Jon Embree (asst. head coach/TEs), Dino Babers (WRs), Eric Bieniemy (RBs/recruiting coord.), Gary DeLoach (secondary/CBs), Thurmond Moore (def. line), Brian Schneider (special teams/safeties), Jim Svoboda (QBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@SAN DIEGO STATE	33-10
S. 10	Rice	
S. 17	Oklahoma	
O. 1	Washington	37-31
O. 8	California	28-45
O. 15	@WASHINGTON STATE	29-31
O. 22	Oregon State	
O. 29	@STANFORD	21-0
N. 5	@ARIZONA	37-17
N. 12	Arizona State	42-48
D. 3	@USC	24-29

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/15

### OFFENSE

QB	14 Drew Olson (6-3, 217, Sr.)
FB	32 Michael Pitre (5-11, 232, So.)
TB	21 Maurice Drew (5-8, 198, Jr.)
ST	73 Ed Blanton (6-9, 345, Sr.)
SG	71 Shannon Tevaga (6-3, 303, So.)
C	59 Mike McCloskey (6-5, 274, Sr.)
WG	75 Robert Cleary (6-7, 299, Sr.)
WT	60 Chris Joseph (6-4, 267, So.)
TE	19 Mercedes Lewis (6-6, 255, Sr.)
SE	8 Junior Taylor (6-1, 198, Sr.)
FL	1 Brandon Breazell (6-0, 154, So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	98 Kyle Morgan (6-3, 254, Sr.)
DT	75 Kevin Brown (6-2, 285, Jr.)
DT	77 Kenneth Lombard (6-1, 280, So.)
DE	17 Justin Hickman (6-1, 260, Jr.)
OLB	40 Wesley Walker (6-3, 222, Sr.)
ILB	9 Justin London (6-1, 235, Sr.)
ILB	41 Spencer Havner (6-4, 236, Sr.)
LCB	3 Rodney Van (6-1, 166, So.)
RCB	22 Michael Norris (5-11, 175, So.)
FS	14 Chris Horton (6-1, 195, So.)
SS	4 Jarrad Page (6-2, 220, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	7 Justin Medlock (6-0, 185, Jr.)
P	17 Aaron Perez (6-2, 200, Fr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Ben Olson, QB  
BYU transfer was the top-rated prep passer in 2001.
- Logan Paulsen, TE  
A solid student who considered Stanford.
- Shawn Oatis, S  
Hard hitter turned down offer from Notre Dame.
- Aaron Ware, CB  
Was also a top RB in high school.
- Aleksey Lanis, OL  
Good technique, but needs to get stronger.

## They're not twins, but Dorrell has tough time deciding between Olsons at quarterback

**U**CLA broke spring practice without knowing its starting quarterback. Well, that's half true. The starter probably will be named Olson. It's just a matter of determining which of the unrelated Olsons it is.

In one locker: Drew Olson, the two-year starter who threw 20 touchdowns last season. He suffered torn knee ligaments in the Las Vegas Bowl loss to Wyoming and had reconstructive surgery in January. Given the seven-to-nine-month recovery period, there's no guarantee that Olson will be healthy for the season opener—much less healthy enough to participate in training camp and work off the rust.

"Drew was a real key for us last year," Bruins coach Karl Dorrell says. "We were happy with his growth in the position. ... We're hopeful that he'll continue his maturation and be an even better quarterback when he returns."

In the other locker: Ben Olson. If the name seems familiar, it should. In the fall of 2001, Ben Olson was the top-rated quarterback prospect in the country. He signed with Brigham Young, spent one season as a redshirt, then bolted for a two-year Mormon church mission. Along the way, he decided BYU wasn't right for him after all. After the mission, the recruiting began all over again. UCLA won the sweepstakes, in part because Olson is from nearby Thousand Oaks.

Ben Olson enrolled in January and participated in offseason conditioning drills. He was rusty during spring practice—no surprise, given that he hadn't played in more than three years—but nevertheless showed the arm strength that made him so coveted out of high school.

If Drew Olson isn't ready for the Sept. 3 season opener at San Diego State, it seems likely that Ben Olson will get the start. There are several other players competing for the job, including senior David Koral and redshirt freshman Pat Cowan, who was surprisingly impressive in spring practice. But they don't have Ben Olson's talent.

It's quite a predicament for the Bruins, who finished 6-6 last fall and seem to lose more ground on cross-town rival USC each year. Perhaps Ben Olson sharpens his skills, Drew Olson gets healthy, and offensive coordinator Tom Cable has two gifted quarterbacks at his disposal. In that



PAUL JASIEWSKI

SPENCER HAVNER, LB

scenario, the Bruins could finish second in the conference and play in a top-tier bowl game.

Then again, what if Drew Olson isn't ready for the opener, Ben Olson plays like a freshman and no one else emerges? Then the Bruins could plunge into the middle of the conference. That would put enormous pressure on Dorrell, who so far has shown no indication he's the man to lead UCLA back to the top of the league.

Dorrell is a former UCLA receiver who had never been a head coach when he was hired to replace Bob Toledo after the 2002 season, and he looked positively overwhelmed in his rookie year. The Bruins had no offense, a mediocre defense and finished 6-7. Then Dorrell got smart and hired the innovative Cable to run the offense in '04. The result was UCLA's most productive season since 1998, when quarterback Cade McNown directed a 40-points-per-game attack.

Problem was, the defense was young and soft and couldn't stop anyone except Stanford (and everyone stopped Stanford). After a 4-1 start, the Bruins lost five of their last seven. It could have been much worse, but UCLA pulled out a 34-26





victory at Oregon in November—the biggest of Dorrell's career—that saved a bowl bid.

If one of the Olsons produces, then this should be Dorrell's best team. The schedule is certainly made to order. The Bruins do not play Oregon, and they get Cal, Arizona State and Oregon State at home. Of their four conference road games, two are against the presumed bottom-feeders, Stanford and Arizona. And the Bruins have two weeks to recover from a Sept. 17 home date against Oklahoma before facing lowly Washington.

Six wins should not be a problem. Eight isn't out of the question.

"We still have a lot of work ahead as we continue to build the program," Dorrell says. "[But] there's a solid foundation in place."

Seven starters return to an offense that averaged 410 yards and 30 points per game, including several of the league's best skill players. Quarterback name-your-Olson will have the option of handing off to tailback Maurice Drew, who rushed for 1,007 yards last season and was a second-team all-conference selection. Or throwing downfield to elusive receiver Junior Taylor, who averaged 14.5 yards per reception and is expected to fill the void left by departed receiver Craig Bragg. Or dumping the ball to Mercedes Lewis, the best tight end in the conference.

Lewis, a senior from famed Long Beach Poly, is a one-man first-down machine: 25 of his 32 catches last fall produced first downs. He also grabbed seven touchdowns and was one of three finalists for the John Mackey Award, presented to the nation's best tight end.

"He started to get the most out of his considerable tools," Dorrell says. "With another year of hard work, he's capable of having an even better season."

Add three returning starters on the line, including second-team all-conference center Mike McCloskey, and the Bruins should have no trouble moving the ball. The question is whether they can stop anyone.

You'd figure that with nine returning starters, UCLA's defense would be markedly improved on experience alone. After all, coordinator Larry Kerr played six true freshmen and nine redshirt freshmen last season. But the Bruins were so bad against the run—117 yards per game allowed, good for 105th in the nation—that maturation might not be enough. The unit needs to get bigger and tougher, not just savvier.

It starts with the front four and their ability to stay healthy and stay in school. Junior tackle Kevin Brown had a terrific spring until he hyperextended a knee. After being faced with dismissal due to team-rules violations in the offseason, former starting tackle C.J. Niusulu opted to transfer in mid-May. His loss will be felt inside.

There are a handful of other players contending for repetitions on the ends. Watch for the Bruins to mix and match until someone steps forward.

"Our tackles will be much improved," Dorrell says. "Kevin was making plays on a consistent basis towards the end of 2004 and could become a big-play defender. ..."

There are also a slew of questions in the secondary, where the Bruins must replace all-conference cornerback Matt Clark and steady safety Ben Emanuel. Chris Horton is the best bet to take over for Emanuel, while Rodney Van could fill Clark's role. The only sure thing, safety Jarrad Page, isn't really a sure thing. He spent the spring playing baseball for the Bruins and is mulling a professional career. If he departs, then it's big trouble. But given his .163 batting average as of mid-April, it seems likely that Page will return to football.

The only unit without serious shortcomings is linebacker, where all-conference senior Spencer Havner is back to defend his Pac-10 tackles title (of 125 stops). Alongside Havner is senior Justin London, who had seven tackles-for-loss despite a nagging sprained ankle, and senior Wesley Walker.

The Bruins are also set at kicker. Junior Justin Medlock made 15 of 20 field goals last season—including three from at least 50 yards—and was a semifinalist for the Groza Award. But UCLA will have to replace Chris Kluwe, who was fifth nationally in net punting.



MAURICE DREW, TB

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	UCLA	OPP
SCORING	361	309
Points Per Game	30.1	25.8
FIRST DOWNS	242	256
Rushing	107	133
Passing	115	111
Penalty	20	12
RUSHING YARDAGE	2219	2521
Yards gained rushing	2509	2820
Yards lost rushing	290	299
Rushing Attempts	466	490
Average Per Rush	4.8	5.1
Average Per Game	184.9	210.1
TDs Rushing	18	18
PASSING YARDAGE	2701	2674
Att-Comp-Int	358-204-13	408-227-14
Average Per Pass	7.5	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.2	11.8
Average Per Game	225.1	222.8
TDs Passing	22	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	4920	5195
Total Plays	824	898
Average Per Play	6.0	5.8
Average Per Game	410.0	432.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	37-817	46-925
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	34-511	20-167
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-201	13-137
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	22.1	20.1
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.0	8.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	14.4	10.5
FUMBLES-LOST	20-12	14-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	65-521	69-670
Average Per Game	43.4	55.8
PUNTS-YARDS	61-2647	68-2585
Average Per Punt	43.4	38.0
Net punt average	40.7	30.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:23	31:35
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/177	67/185
3rd-Down Pct	40%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/16	10/23
4th-Down Pct	44%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	20-111	23-138
MISC YARDS	0	17
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	45	37
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	15-20	17-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	42-43	34-34
ATTENDANCE	363092	304919
Games/Avg Per Game	6/60515	5/60984
Neutral Site Games		1/29062

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
UCLA	95	116	76	74	—	361
Opponents	99	69	71	70	—	309

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Drew Olson

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	132.39	341-196-13	57.5	2565	20	213.8

#### David Koral

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
3	175.63	12-7-0	58.3	89	2	29.7

### RUSHING

ROSHING	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
Maurice Drew	11	160	1007	6.3	8	91.5
Manuel White	12	164	764	4.7	8	63.7
Chris Markey	11	66	350	5.3	1	31.8

### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Craig Bragg	9	36	483	13.4	4	53.7
Junior Taylor	12	32	463	14.5	2	38.6
Mercedes Lewis	12	32	402	12.6	7	33.5

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Spencer Havner	11	84	41	125
Jarrad Page	12	46	33	79
Ben Emanuel II	12	46	30	76

### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Kevin Brown	12	5.0	34
Bruce Davis	12	2.5	12
Justin London	10	2.0	11

### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jarrad Page	3	20	6.7	0
Matthew Clark	3	48	16.0	0
Trey Brown	2	50	25.0	1





MARSHAWN LYNCH, RB



# CALIFORNIA

## GOLDEN BEARS



BERKELEY, CALIF.

2004 Record: 10-2 overall, 7-1 Pac-10 (lost to Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl, 45-31)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

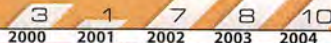
Capacity: 73,347

Official athletic Web site: www.calbears.com

PRESEASON RANK:

4

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Jeff Tedford, 4th Year (25-13) Career Record: 25-13

Assistant coaches: George Cortez (off. coord./QBs), Bob Gregory (def. coord.),

Pete Alamar (special teams/TEs), Ken Delgado (def. line), Ron Gould (RBs), Eric Kiesau (WRs),

Jim Michalczyk (asst. head coach/off. line), Justin Wilcox (LBs), J.D. Williams (def. secondary)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Sacramento State	
S. 10	@WASHINGTON	42-12
S. 17	Illinois	
S. 23	@NEW MEXICO STATE	41-14
O. 1	Arizona	38-0
O. 8	@UCLA	45-28
O. 15	Oregon State	49-7
O. 22	Washington State	
N. 5	@OREGON	28-27
N. 12	USC	17-23
N. 19	@STANFORD	41-6

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11

Lettermen returning/lost: 42/26

#### OFFENSE

QB	18 Joseph Ayoob (6-3, 215, Jr.)
FB	38 Byron Storer (6-1, 230, Jr.)
RB	24 Marshawn Lynch (5-11, 200, So.)
LT	71 Andrew Cameron (6-5, 320, Jr.)
LG	75 Erik Robertson (6-2, 310, Jr.)
C	54 Marvin Phillip (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RG	65 Aaron Merz (6-4, 320, Sr.)
RT	61 Ryan O'Callaghan (6-7, 340, Sr.)
TE	82 Craig Stevens (6-5, 250, So.)
WR	11 Robert Jordan (5-11, 160, So.)
WR	1 Noah Smith (5-11, 180, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	94 Tosh Lupoi (6-4, 265, Sr.)
DT	52 Brandon Mebane (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	69 Matthew Malele (6-3, 310, So.)
DE	79 Nu'u Tafisi (6-2, 265, Jr.)
OLB	26 Ryan Foltz (6-2, 210, Sr.)
MLB	10 Desmond Bishop (6-2, 240, Jr.)
OLB	8 Marlin Simmons (5-11, 205, r-Fr.)
CB	13 Daymeion Hughes (6-2, 180, Jr.)
CB	11 Harrison Smith (6-2, 200, Sr.)
S	7 Thomas DeCoud (6-3, 190, So.)
ROV	21 Donnie McCleskey (5-10, 195, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	18 Tom Schneider (6-0, 200, So.)
P	14 David Lonie (6-6, 210, Sr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Joseph Ayoob, QB**  
Mobile JC transfer could start the season opener.
2. **DeSean Jackson, WR**  
Best receiver on the West Coast; turned down USC.
3. **Lavelle Hawkins, WR**  
Teamed with Ayoob at City College of San Francisco.
4. **Nuu Tafisi, DE**  
Another JC transfer who could play immediately.
5. **Kyle Reed, QB**  
Should be ready to emerge for Bears in 2007.

## Tedford factor and soft schedule should keep Cal rolling and bowling

In the business world, it was known as the Welch Premium — the inflated stock price given to General Electric, relative to the company's earnings, because of the reputation and success of CEO Jack Welch.

In the Pac-10, it seems there is a Tedford Premium—the inflated expectations, relative to talent, attached to the California Golden Bears because of the reputation and success of Jeff Tedford. After all, the man has been voted conference coach of the year twice in his three seasons in Berkeley.

Consider what the Bears lost: one of the top quarterbacks in the country, a 2,000-yard rusher, their starting receivers and eight defensive starters.

Any other team facing that predicament would be slotted for sixth place—perhaps even seventh. But not the Bears. Because of Tedford (and a favorable schedule), they're a solid choice to finish no worse

than fourth, win at least seven games and participate in a bowl game for the third consecutive year.

Not bad for a program that was 1-10 four years ago.

"Every year, there seems to be a new challenge," Tedford says. "The first year, we came and nobody really knew what to expect. The next year, we lost all those guys and then it was, 'Okay, wait and see how these guys fit in.' We still had enough leadership there to carry us through.

"Then we went into last season with a lot of expectations: 'Now we're in the top 15 or 20 or whatever.' It was how to deal with expectation.

"Now we lose a whole other group but it's different from losing those 24 that first year because there was still a really good foundation of leadership. Now we're very, very young. It's a whole new challenge right now."

Technically, the Bears return just six starters on offense and three on defense from a team that went 10-2. But that's a bit misleading. Linebacker Ryan Foltz started five games last season but does not count as a "returning starter." And rover Donnie McCleskey was a first-team all-conference player in '03 but started only two games last year because of a shoulder injury.

But there is no question the Bears need a quarterback to replace the sensational Aaron Rodgers, whose aptitude for the game matched his arm strength and accuracy. (He completely 66 percent of his passes.) There are two contenders for the job: redshirt freshman Nathan Longshore, and Joseph Ayoob, a transfer from City College of San Francisco. Because Rodgers was also a juco transfer, Cal fans naturally assume Ayoob will pick up where Rodgers left off. That's a bit unfair, given that Rodgers was a first-round NFL draft pick.

"I don't think you can even compare those two as far as expectations," Tedford says. "Aaron came out and no one really knew who he was. We were still at a point as a program where it was a wait-and-see type of thing. ...

"For Joe to come in, he is highly decorated coming out of junior college. There is a little more expectation on him as far as the public's concerned. As far as us as a program, we understand there's a process involved with this thing to mature and fit into this offense."

Rodgers was elusive; Ayoob is a true scrambler. But he does not have Rodgers' arm or aptitude for the game, which enabled Rodgers to quickly absorb Tedford's massive playbook. Ayoob grappled with the offense in spring



RYAN O'CALLAGHAN, DT





practice and probably will continue to struggle throughout the season.

Given that, it's a good thing he'll have the option of handing the ball to sophomore tailback Marshawn Lynch, whose natural gifts are exceeded in the conference only by USC's Reggie Bush. Lynch was so good last season in averaging 8.8 yards per carry that Cal isn't overly concerned about replacing J.J. Arrington, who averaged 168.2 yards per game. Lynch is strong, shifty and has amazing balance.

"Marshawn gave us a little taste of what he brings to the table last year," Tedford says. "He's a tremendous talent. We're excited about getting him in there on an every-play basis now."

There should be plenty of seams for Lynch to choose from, given that Cal returns four starters to arguably the best offensive line in the conference. Center Marvin Philip was a finalist for the Rimington Trophy last season. Tackle Ryan O'Callaghan, all 340 pounds of him, was a first-team All-Pac-10 pick.

With a terrific line and a brilliant tailback, defenses most likely will sell out to stop the run and dare Ayoub (or Longshore) to win games through the air. That would be a sound strategy, because Cal must replace three of its top four receivers: all-leaguer Geoff McArthur, Chase Lyman and Jonathan Makonnen.

Sophomore Robert Jordan had a promising freshman year (29 catches), but is suspended for the opener for disciplinary reasons. Meanwhile, junior David Gray must serve a three-game team suspension for carrying a concealed handgun. That's not exactly the leadership the Bears were looking for. Oh, and they also must replace tight end Garrett Cross, and all he did was score five touchdowns.

In other words, don't expect the Bears to average 36.8 points and 492 yards per game this season.

"We're not the team that we were last year," Tedford says. "We lost 26 lettermen last

year. There are a lot of new faces out there. This is a learning process and the only way to learn is to let the guys make mistakes and to make sure that we communicate and we teach."

There's plenty of teaching to do on defense, as well. Let's start with the line, where Cal must replace run-stuffing tackle Lorenzo Alexander and end Ryan Riddle, who led the Pac-10 with 14.5 sacks. The Bears are counting on junior Brandon Mebane to become an elite interior player and on end Tosh Lupoi—a starter in '03 who missed last season with a broken foot—to provide a consistent pass rush. They also believe Nu'u Tafisi, a transfer from Mt. San Antonio College, will eventually post Riddle-esque numbers.

Then again, the defensive line is littered with experience compared to the linebackers. The closest thing Cal has to a returning starter in the unit is Foltz. (Greg Van Hoesen is the only other returning player who appeared in a game last season.) Redshirt freshmen Worrell Williams and Marlin Simmons are talented, but how long will it take for them to become impact players?

The secondary is the most experienced unit on defense. McCleskey has recovered from the shoulder injury and will help fill the void left by the loss of all-leaguer Matt Giordano and captain Ryan Gutierrez. Because the Bears return both starting corners, Harrison Smith and Daymeion Hughes, Tedford plans to move reserve Thomas DeCoud.

"The most important thing is for guys to come together as a unit, because we've had a tight-knit group the last couple years," defensive coordinator Bob Gregory says. "There are a lot of new faces."

The Bears had one of the best kickoff returners in the conference last season in Lynch, but because of his increased role in the offense, he might be relieved of his return duties. Punter

David Lonie is back, as is placekicker Tom Schneider and kickoff specialist Anthony Binswanger.



## IN PROFILE ... DONNIE MCCLESKEY

*Talented rover's return to health bodes well for Bears' defense*

For Donnie McCleskey, failure to play was not an option. Ailing from a torn labrum in his right shoulder and tendinitis in his right knee, the Cal rover back was expected to use a medical redshirt last season.

Instead, McCleskey took on a part-time playing role and became one of the Bears' most admired locker-room leaders in the process. Last season, he compiled 38 tackles in a platoon role, far removed from a sophomore campaign that included all-conference honors and 102 tackles.

"He was limited all year because he was banged up," says Cal coach Jeff Tedford. "He was still recovering from injuries, but what he did last year shows what a true warrior he is."

TBS college football analyst Charles Davis, who covers Pac-10 games for the cable network, says many people didn't realize how serious, and nagging, McCleskey's injuries were throughout 2004.

Known for sledgehammer tackles, McCleskey couldn't crunch runners and receivers last season

because his lead shoulder was ailing. Cutting and running with wide receivers also proved difficult because of his achy knee.

"He breaks on the ball well and he's terrific at run support," Davis says. "I think you'll see a different player this year."

Despite the hardships, McCleskey believes his injury-marred junior season will make him better in 2005.

It made him mentally tougher and more determined to lead Cal's defense back after their humiliating loss to Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl (this after the Bears proclaimed maltreatment after Texas leapfrogged them and gained a Rose Bowl bid many expected would be going to Cal).

McCleskey's shoulder and knee were repaired in separate surgeries this winter. Now he's focused on returning to form.

"There were a lot of nights last season where I'd go home and wonder what people thought of me, whether they considered me a one-hit wonder," McCleskey says. "All of that has just made me stronger and ready to be on that field again."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	CAL	OPP
SCORING	441	192
Points Per Game	36.8	16.0
FIRST DOWNS	291	200
Rushing	146	67
Passing	126	112
Penalty	19	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	3081	990
Yards gained rushing	3286	1368
Yards lost rushing	205	378
Rushing Attempts	509	368
Average Per Rush	6.1	2.7
Average Per Game	256.8	82.5
TDs Rushing	30	7
PASSING YARDAGE	2828	2861
Att-Comp-Int	331-219-8	426-221-10
Average Per Pass	8.5	6.7
Average Per Catch	12.9	12.9
Average Per Game	235.7	238.4
TDs Passing	27	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5909	3851
Total Plays	840	794
Average Per Play	7.0	4.9
Average Per Game	492.4	320.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	22-478	54-1108
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-299	18-195
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	10-166	8-112
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.7	20.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.1	10.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.6	14.0
FUMBLES-LOST	12-10	22-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	71-673	86-704
Average Per Game	56.1	58.7
PUNTS-YARDS	47-1879	79-3275
Average Per Punt	40.0	41.5
Net punt average	35.8	37.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:40	27:20
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/147	64/182
3rd-Down Pct	45%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/9	6/18
4th-Down Pct	56%	33%
SACKS BY-YARDS	37-247	25-116
MISC YARDS	30	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	59	24
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-17	9-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	56-57	21-24
ATTENDANCE	320095	319066
Games/Avg Per Game	5/64019	6/53178
Neutral Site Games		1/63711

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
California	103	111	86	141	—	441
Opponent	64	61	33	34	—	192

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING						
Aaron Rodgers						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	154.35	316-209-8	66.1	2566	24	213.8
Reggie Robertson						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	216.27	9-6-0	66.7	121	1	11.0
Marshawn Lynch						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	407.80	2-2-0	100.0	34	1	2.8
RUSHING						
J.J. Arrington	GP	Att.	Net	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
J.J. Arrington	12	289	2018	7.0	15	168.2
Marshawn Lynch	12	71	628	8.8	8	52.3
Aaron Rodgers	12	74	126	1.7	3	10.5
RECEIVING						
Geoff McArthur	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Geoff McArthur	12	57	862	15.1	7	71.8
Robert Jordan	8	29	332	11.4	2	41.5
Garrett Cross	11	28	339	12.1	5	30.8

## DEFENSE

<b>TACKLES</b>				
	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Ryan Gutierrez	12	50	29	79
Wendell Hunter	11	53	17	70
Matt Giordano	12	41	20	61
<b>SACKS</b>				
	GP	No.	Yds.	
Ryan Riddle	12	14.5	122	
Joe Maningo	12	6.0	40	
Tom Sverchek	12	5.5	35	
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tim Mixon	3	58	19.3	1
Wendell Hunter	2	43	21.5	0
Steve Kelly	1	21	21.0	0





DEREK HAGAN, WR



# ARIZONA STATE

## SUN DEVILS

TEMPE, ARIZ.

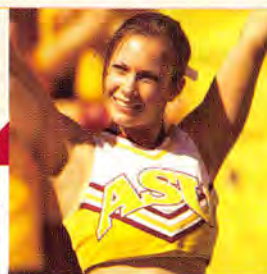
**2004 Record:** 9-3 overall, 5-3 Pac-10 (beat Purdue in the Sun Bowl, 27-23)  
**Stadium:** Sun Devil Stadium **Turf:** Grass **Capacity:** 71,706  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.thesundevils.com

PRESEASON RANK: FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

5

6 4 8 5 9  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

**Head coach:** Dirk Koetter, 5th Year (26-23) **Career Record:** 52-33  
**Assistant coaches:** Tom Osborne (asst. head coach/TEs/special teams), Mark Carrier (secondary), Dan Fidler (safeties), Mark Helfrich (QB/special game coord.), Darryl Jackson (WRs), Bill Miller (def. coord./LBs), Ted Monachino (def. line), Brent Myers (off. line/running game coord.), Tom Nordquist (RBs/recruiting coord.)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Temple	
S. 10	@LSU	
S. 17	Northwestern	30-21
S. 24	@OREGON STATE	27-14
O. 1	USC	7-45
O. 8	Oregon	28-13
O. 22	@STANFORD	34-31
O. 29	Washington	
N. 5	@WASHINGTON STATE	45-28
N. 12	@UCLA	48-42
N. 25	Arizona	27-34

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 50/10

#### OFFENSE

QB	9	Sam Keller (6-4, 227, Jr.)
HB	83	Lee Burghgraef (6-5, 261, Sr.)
TB	3	Rudy Burgess (5-11, 181, r-Fr.)
LT	62	Brandon Rodd (6-4, 313, So.)
LG	66	Stephen Berg (6-6, 319, So.)
C	71	Grayling Love (6-3, 297, Sr.)
RG	78	Zach Krula (6-7, 283, Jr.)
RT	52	Andrew Carnahan (6-8, 297, Jr.)
TE	86	Zach Miller (6-4, 250, So.)
WR	80	Derek Hagan (6-2, 197, Sr.)
WR	17	Terry Richardson (6-1, 185, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	45	Mike Talbot (6-2, 235, Sr.)
DT	1	Jordan Hill (6-2, 277, Jr.)
DT	99	Quency Darley (6-2, 273, Jr.)
DE	50	Kyle Caldwell (6-3, 253, Jr.)
DVL	29	Robert James (5-11, 213, So.)
MLB	44	Dale Robinson (6-1, 236, Sr.)
SLB	4	Jamar Williams (6-1, 244, Sr.)
CB	26	R.J. Oliver (5-9, 173, Sr.)
CB	23	Josh Golden (5-10, 174, Sr.)
S	19	Josh Barrett (6-2, 206, r-Fr.)
S	13	Emmanuel Franklin (5-11, 196, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Jesse Ainsworth (6-3, 219, Jr.)
P	37	Chris MacDonald (6-4, 214, So.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Derek Shaw, QB**  
Turned down offer from Miami. A future all-leaguer.
- Beau Manutai, LB**  
Very aggressive, but needs to improve conditioning.
- Zach Catanese, S**  
Nearly big enough (6-3, 215) to play small forward.
- Grant Crunkleton, CB**  
Gotta love CBs who prefer to play press coverage.
- Shawn DeWitty, RB**  
Reports a 38-inch vertical and benches 285.

## Off-field troubles make Sun Devils even more unpredictable than usual

**T**he numbers don't add up. A team that went 9-3 last season and returns nine starters on offense and six on defense seemingly should be picked higher than fifth. But no team in the Pac-10 is tougher to figure than Arizona State.

Could the Sun Devils finish second? Yes. Could they push USC to the brink when the Trojans visit Tempe on Oct. 1? Absolutely. There are more than enough playmakers on the roster. But ASU could just as easily finish fifth, or worse. The uncertainty is due to two off-field incidents that took place in the spring.

The first was the shooting death of former player Brandon Falkner by running back Loren Wade. Wade was subsequently charged with first-degree murder and dismissed from the team. The second, a less significant incident, was the arrest of offensive linemen Jonathan Lehmann and Brent Russum for allegedly photographing a naked female student without her permission; they were banished as well.

When this magazine went to press, coach Dirk Koetter's job appeared secure and the Sun Devils had finished a productive month of spring practice. But the school was conducting an internal investigation into Wade's behavior before the shooting, what Koetter knew and whether he took the proper steps to prevent a possible tragedy. In addition, ASU was searching for a new athletic director (i.e., and new boss for Koetter) to replace the outgoing Gene Smith, who went to Ohio State.

Let's assume the fallout is limited, Koetter keeps his job and no other incidents arise. Let's also make a football assumption: that junior quarterback Sam Keller plays as well as the full-time starter as he did as the spot-starter in the Sun Bowl. Replacing the injured Andrew Walter, Keller threw for 370 yards and three touchdowns in a victory over Purdue. A productive, efficient Keller would make for one of the top offenses in the conference. But if Keller struggles—perhaps Purdue was an aberration—then so will ASU. His backup, Rudy Carpenter, is a redshirt freshman.

A veteran offensive line is anchored by all-league center Grayling Love, who has shifted to center. All-American receiver Derek Hagan is back for his senior year, aiming to break John Jefferson's school record for career yardage. If Hagan is double-covered, which should happen often, Keller would

### IN PROFILE ...

#### DEREK HAGAN

*Once overlooked, senior now on track to break Jefferson's ASU receiving marks*

When Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter thinks about Derek Hagan, he can't believe the school almost overlooked the standout wide receiver. In early 2002, Koetter's staff gave up recruiting Hagan, who then leaned toward signing with UNLV.

A couple of weeks before National Signing Day, Koetter told one of his assistants to make another run at Hagan.

"We called him and he decided to come here," Koetter says. "Even at that point, I didn't know what we had. I figured he'd be a redshirt."

Instead, Hagan, initially projected as a defensive back, moved to wide receiver and wound up catching 32 passes for 405 yards, breaking former NFL star John Jefferson's school record for a freshman. Since then, he's never looked back.

At 6-2 and 197 pounds, Hagan has enough size to outmuscle many defensive backs for the ball. He possesses deceptive speed and has a penchant for grabbing short- and medium-range passes and converting them into long gains.

"He glides real well and he's got a nice long stride," says Charles Davis, a TBS analyst on Pac-10 games. "Hagan was a big part of what they did last year. And I think he's just going to get better."

—Erik Spanberg

have two solid options: playmaking receiver Terry Richardson, who averaged 15.1 yards per catch last season; and tight end Zach Miller, who caught 56 passes in '04 and was named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year.

The Devils are also well-stocked in the backfield with versatile Rudy Burgess, a shifty runner and first-class receiver. In addition, graduate student Chad Christensen—arguably the most versatile player in the league—can play receiver, running back or quarterback. He lost the starting job to Walter in 2002.

But there are a few questions on defense, where the Sun Devils must replace first-team all-league safety Riccardo Stewart, second-team lineman Jimmy Verdon and steady linebacker Justin Burks. The returnees are neatly arranged: two on the line, two at linebacker and two in the secondary. While no unit will be overwhelming, no unit had to be rebuilt, either.



# WASHINGTON STATE

COUGARS

PULLMAN, WASH.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 Pac-10

Stadium: Martin Stadium

Official athletic Web site: [www.wsucougars.com](http://www.wsucougars.com)

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 35,117

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

6

4 10 10 10 5  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Bill Doba, 3rd Year (15-9) Career Record: 15-9

Assistant coaches: Robb Akey (def. coord./def. line), Leon Burnett (LBs), Ken Greene (DBs), Mike Levenseller (off. coord./WRs), Robin Pflugrad (asst. head coach/TEs/recruiting coord.), Timm Rosenbach (QB), Kelly Skipper (RBs), Mike Walker (def. line), George Yarno (off. line)

## Pressure on for Doba to bring back days when Price was right for Cougars

Little wonder that the section of Washington State's spring prospectus devoted to coach Bill Doba was heavy on rehashing 2003 and made little mention of '04. That's because the Cougars won 10 games in Doba's rookie season but went 5-6 in his second. The question hanging over the program is whether last fall was an aberration or the beginning of a downward spiral that could eventually cost Doba his job.

The standards at WSU are much higher than they were a decade ago, before Mike Price took WSU to the 1997 and 2002 Rose Bowls. Because it has been done, the Cougar faithful now believe it should be done.

Of course, with nine starters returning on offense and six on defense, WSU certainly has the personnel to contend for a bowl bid and a spot in the league's upper division. But it won't happen without steady quarterback play—something that eluded the Cougars last season because of injuries and inexperience.

Josh Swogger was inconsistent until a foot injury ended his season. Freshman Alex Brink struggled for much of his time on the field but led the Cougars to an Apple Cup victory over Washington. Although Swogger did not participate in contact drills during spring practice, the job is his to lose, Doba indicated.

Whomever starts will be surrounded by three top-notch offensive players: tailback Jerome Harrison, receiver Jason Hill and tight end Troy Bienemann.

Harrison, nicknamed "The Ghost" by his teammates—he's there one minute, gone the next—was sensational in spring practice and should improve on last year's average of 81.8 yards per game. Whether he duplicates his performance at UCLA, when he rushed for 247 yards, remains to be seen.

Hill caught 12 touchdowns last season as a sophomore—a school record—and stands with Oregon State's Mike Haas, Arizona State's Derek Hagan and USC's Dwayne Jarrett as one of the best returning receivers in the league.

Bienemann, who attracts as much attention as some receivers, averaged 11.1 yards per catch last season despite a bruised lower leg that forced him to play center for two games.

The biggest personnel losses came up front, where the Cougars said goodbye to two all-league linemen: Calvin Armstrong (a first-team pick) and Sam Lightbody (a second-teamer). But with three starters and four backups returning, the protection should be solid and the running lanes wide.

By contrast, the defense returns most of its big bodies up front but suffered heavy losses in the backfield. Gone are starting safeties Hamza Abdullah and Jeremy Bohannon and cornerback Karl Paymah. One of Doba's primary concerns in the spring was identifying a cornerback to start opposite Alex Teems, and he was not successful.

Fortunately for the Cougars, the man at the core of the defense is one of the best in the league: middle linebacker Will Derting, a terrific leader, ferocious hitter and second-team all-conference pick in '04. Derting will help plug the hole created by the departure of defensive tackle Steve Cook, but everyone else returns to the line. Ends Adam Braidwood and Mkristo Bruce combined for 23.5 tackles for loss last season.

The Cougars are set on special teams with punter Kyle Basler (43.1-yard average), kicker Loren Langley and dynamic punt returner Michael Bumpus.

Talk about being there one minute, gone the next—Bumpus took two back for touchdowns. He'll also get plenty of snaps at receiver opposite Hill.

The bottom line: Don't be surprised if the Cougars follow last year's disappointing path. A soft early schedule (Idaho, at Nevada, Grambling State, Stanford and UCLA) should fuel an encouraging start, but a tough second half, which includes trips to Cal and USC, could leave WSU on the outside of the bowl picture once again.



WILL DERTING, LB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Idaho	49-8
S. 9	@NEVADA	
S. 17	Grambling State	
O. 1	@OREGON STATE	19-38
O. 8	Stanford	17-23
O. 15	UCLA	31-29
O. 22	@CALIFORNIA	
O. 29	@USC	12-42
N. 5	Arizona State	28-45
N. 12	Oregon	38-41
N. 19	@WASHINGTON	28-25

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/15

### OFFENSE

QB	9	Josh Swogger (6-5, 245, So.)
SB	5	Michael Bumpus (5-11, 185, So.)
RB	1	Jerome Harrison (5-9, 192, Sr.)
LT	70	Bobby Byrd (6-7, 314, So.)
LG	73	Sean O'Connor (6-5, 279, Jr.)
C	66	Nick Muhlhauser (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RG	76	Norvell Holmes (6-2, 300, Sr.)
RT	55	Charles Harris (6-6, 311, Jr.)
TE	81	Troy Bienemann (6-5, 255, Sr.)
SE	83	Jason Hill (6-2, 205, Jr.)
FL	2	Chris Jordan (6-1, 214, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

WE	94	Mkristo Bruce (6-6, 255, Jr.)
LT	40	Aaron Johnson (6-6, 306, So.)
RT	75	Ropati Pitoitua (6-8, 302, So.)
SE	13	Adam Braidwood (6-5, 262, Sr.)
WLB	49	Steve Dildine (6-1, 226, Jr.)
MLB	51	Will Derting (6-0, 228, Sr.)
SLB	42	Scott Davis (5-11, 230, Jr.)
LCB	32	Wally Dada (5-11, 194, Sr.)
RCB	21	Alex Teems (5-11, 184, Sr.)
FS	23	Husain Abdullah (6-0, 187, So.)
SS	37	Eric Frampton (5-11, 205, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	27	Loren Langley (5-7, 150, So.)
P	8	Kyle Basler (6-3, 238, Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Bryan Tarkington, DT**  
JC transfer should contribute instantly.
2. **Fevae'i Ahmu, DT**  
Has 75 tackles and 12 sacks as a senior.
3. **Arkelon Hall, QB**  
It was WSU or Utah, and Cougs won the battle.
4. **Lorenzo Bursey, RB**  
Signed with Oregon State, then went JC route.
5. **Shelton Danzy, CB**  
Cougars have produced terrific CBs over the years.



JASON HILL, WR



# OREGON STATE

## BEAVERS

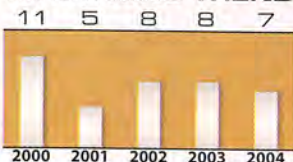


2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 Pac-10

(beat Notre Dame in the Insight Bowl, 38-21)

Official athletic Web site: www.osubeavers.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Portland State	
S. 10	Boise State	34-53
S. 17	@LOUISVILLE	
S. 24	Arizona State	14-27
O. 1	Washington State	38-19
O. 15	@CALIFORNIA	7-49
O. 22	@UCLA	
O. 29	Arizona	28-14
N. 5	@WASHINGTON	29-14
N. 12	Stanford	24-19
N. 19	@OREGON	50-21

Head coach: Mike Riley,

5th Year (23-24)

Career Record: 23-24

Stadium: Reser Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 43,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	8	Matt Moore (6-4, 180, Jr.)
TB	26	Yvenson Bernard (5-9, 199, So.)
LT	61	Adam Koets (6-6, 291, Jr.)
LG	69	Josh Linehan (6-5, 295, Jr.)
C	75	Kyle DeVan (6-2, 300, So.)
RG	67	Roy Schuening (6-4, 317, So.)
RT	72	Tavita Thompson (6-6, 299, r-Fr.)
TE	89	Joe Newton (6-7, 254, Jr.)
SE	28	Mike Hass (6-1, 209, Sr.)
SL	16	Marcel Love (6-0, 184, Sr.)
FL	17	Anthony Wheat-Brown (6-1, 214, So.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	27	Joe Lemma (6-3, 260, Jr.)
LT	97	Ben Siegert (6-4, 275, Jr.)
RT	92	Alvin Smith (6-2, 319, Sr.)
RE	49	Jeff Van Orsow (6-4, 253, So.)
WLB	21	Chaz Scott (6-2, 218, Sr.)
MLB	44	Trent Bray (6-1, 229, Sr.)
SLB	4	Keith Ellison (6-2, 223, Sr.)
LCB	9	Gerard Lawson (5-11, 185, So.)
RCB	34	Keenan Lewis (6-1, 186, r-Fr.)
FS	7	Lamar Herron (6-0, 203, So.)
SS	24	Sabby Piscitelli (6-3, 222, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Alexis Serna (5-8, 157, So.)
P	35	Sam Paulescu (6-0, 192, Sr.)

USC and Arizona State did not corner the market on off-season chaos.

Although Oregon State's issues were not as serious as those in L.A. or Tempe, the Beavers scored high on the creativity scale.

Defensive tackle Ben Siegert stole a sheep, while tailback Jimtavis Walker was arrested for allegedly trying to pay a taxi driver with marijuana. (He skipped out on the tab and was eventually charged with robbery.) Both players are integral to the Beavers' success this season—and both, coincidentally, were allowed to participate in spring practice. Siegert is expected to help anchor a defense that lost several key players, and Walker is the leading candidate to jump-start a sagging running game.

The regular season might not be much easier than the offseason for coach Mike Riley, who had to defend his team's conduct on more than one occasion.

The Beavers lost quarterback Derek Anderson, who set all sorts of school records during his three years as a starter. They lost four assistant coaches. They lost one of the best defensive linemen in school history. And they lost three starters from a superb secondary that helped power OSU to a 7-5 record last season and a victory over Notre Dame in the Insight Bowl.

Technically, four quarterbacks are competing for the starting job: junior Matt Moore, sophomore Ryan Gunderson and freshmen Sean Canfield and Brian Hildebrand. In reality, there are probably only two contenders: Gunderson, who threw 16 passes last season as Anderson's backup, and Moore, who transferred from UCLA, where he started five games in two seasons.

"I didn't want to bring a transfer into the program if I didn't think he could compete for the job," Riley says, "and after studying video, the staff decided Matt has the talent to be an immediate contributor."

Moore and Gunderson will work behind a veteran offensive line (three starters return) and have a slew of targets to choose from. Tops on the list are tight end Joe Newton, who caught 56 passes last season, and receiver Mike Hass, a former walk-on who has emerged as one of the most productive players in the conference.

# WASHINGTON

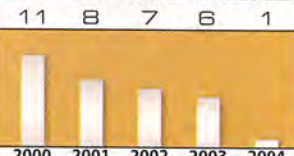
## HUSKIES



2004 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-8 Pac-10

Official athletic Web site: www.gohuskies.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@AIR FORCE	
S. 10	California	12-42
S. 17	Idaho	
S. 24	Notre Dame	3-38
O. 1	@UCLA	31-37
O. 15	@OREGON	6-31
O. 22	USC	0-38
O. 29	@ARIZONA STATE	
N. 5	Oregon State	14-29
N. 12	@ARIZONA	13-23
N. 19	Washington State	25-28

Head coach: Tyrone Willingham,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 65-51-1

Stadium: Husky Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 72,500

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 63/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	4	Isaiah Stanback (6-3, 205, Jr.)
FB	22	James Sims Jr. (6-1, 205, Sr.)
TB	8	Kenny James (5-10, 215, Jr.)
WT	75	Chad Macklin (6-8, 205, So.)
WG	63	Clay Walker (6-4, 300, Jr.)
C	50	Brad Vanneman (6-3, 305, Sr.)
SG	61	Tusi Sa'au (6-2, 320, Sr.)
ST	68	Robin Meadow (6-6, 300, Sr.)
TE	88	Robert Lewis (6-3, 225, So.)
WR	3	Craig Chambers (6-3, 200, So.)
WR	18	Corey Williams (6-2, 190, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	97	Mike Mapuolesga (6-3, 280, Sr.)
NT	94	Jordan White-Frisbee (6-6, 330, So.)
DT	56	Manase Hopoi (6-4, 285, Sr.)
DE	7	Greyson Gunheim (6-4, 245, So.)
OLB	27	Evan Benjamin (6-0, 215, Sr.)
ILB	4	Scott White (6-1, 230, Jr.)
ILB	53	Joe Lobendahn (5-10, 230, Sr.)
CB	6	Matt Fountaine (5-11, 185, Jr.)
CB	28	Roy Lewis (5-11, 185, So.)
FS	0	Dashon Goldson (6-2, 195, Jr.)
SS	1	C.J. Wallace (6-0, 205, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Evan Knudson (6-0, 185, Sr.)
P	17	Sean Douglas (6-1, 215, Jr.)

So here he is, poised to rebuild another sagging program. Tyrone Willingham did it at Stanford and at Notre Dame, and now he's set to re-inflate Washington. But life in Seattle is not the same as life in South Bend, Ind.

For one thing, the coffee's better. For another, the traffic's worse. Oh, and there's one more significant difference: Willingham doesn't have nearly as much talent at his disposal this fall as he did during his rookie season at Notre Dame, when he turned the Irish into a national player and was the toast of college football.

That's not to say Willingham won't win in Seattle. He will. He just won't win big this season. The combination of 20 returning starters and Willingham's discipline-heavy style should get things stabilized immediately. That means three or four wins and a respectable showing most Saturdays.

"It is possible for me to expect them to be able to do everything in our system, but it is not realistic," Willingham says.

But there isn't enough elite talent for the Huskies to climb into the Pac-10's upper division. The talent pool has been ravaged by former coach Rick Neuheisel's poor recruiting decisions—he spent too much time pursuing elite players who were unlikely to sign with UW—and Keith Gilbertson's poor on-field performance. Remember the days when the Huskies' second-stringers were potential NFL draftees? Now most of the starters aren't even pro prospects, which explains Washington's 1-10 record in '04, its first losing season since 1976.

The Huskies had the worst offense and the worst defense in the league, and only a victory over lowly San Jose State kept them from going oh-fer.

Nowhere is the talent drop more evident than at quarterback, the position that doomed Washington last season. Casey Paus was terrible (5 touchdowns, 17 interceptions), and neither Isaiah Stanback nor Carl Bonnell were any better. They're all back this season, along with Oregon transfer Johnny DuRocher. Although Willingham did not name a starter during spring practice, the smart money is on Stanback, a junior who is a threat with his feet and arm.



# STANFORD

## CARDINAL



**04 Record:** 4-7 overall, 2-6 Pac-10

**Official athletic Web site:** www.gostanford.com

Spring practice brought with it a major change at Stanford. OK, make that two major changes: optimism among the faithful and downfield completions on the practice field.

After three years of Buddy Teevens' unimaginative, sputtering offense, the school of John Elway and Jim Plunkett is once again a treat with its aerial attack.

The reason: the arrival of coach Valt Harris, a proven winner and developer of quarterbacks who has 10 returning starters on offense and a solid front-seven on defense.

Stanford, which was 4-7 last season, certainly has the potential to win six games. But the schedule is difficult: the Cardinal hosts many of the league's top teams and plays most of the middle-level teams on the road—a bad combination. It also missed Washington and plays Arizona on the road, meaning it could very well go winless against its fellow bottom-feeders.

To reach its first bowl game since December 2001, the Cardinal needs solid play from one of its quarterbacks: senior Trent Edwards or sophomore T.C. Ostrander, who was impressive late last season when Edwards was struggling and injured.

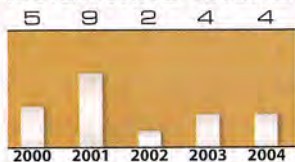
"We'll spread the field, use a mix of two backs, I-formation and multiple looks," Harris says. "It will be critical to our success that the quarterback operates in a high-percentage manner."

It won't be easy to replace tight end Alex Smith, but everyone else returns, including tailback J.R. Lemon and receivers Mark Bradford and Evan Moore, who combined for 73 catches last fall.

Defensively, the player to watch is outside linebacker Jon Alston—a second-team all-conference performer who had 10 sacks and forced three fumbles last season. Whether the linebacking unit is top-notch or merely solid depends on senior Michael Craven. A former mega-recruit, Craven has struggled on the field and in the classroom. Will he finally play to his immense potential?

End Julian Jenkins and eclipse-causing nose tackle Babatunde Oshinowo form the core of a solid line, but the Cardinal must replace three starters in the secondary, starting with playmaking safety O.J. Atogwe, a third-round pick of the St. Louis Rams.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	@NAVY	
S. 17	California-Davis	
O. 1	Oregon	13-16
O. 8	@WASHINGTON STATE	23-17
O. 15	@ARIZONA	
O. 22	Arizona State	31-34
O. 29	UCLA	0-21
N. 5	@USC	28-31
N. 12	@OREGON STATE	19-24
N. 19	California	6-41
N. 26	Notre Dame	15-23

**Head coach:** Walt Harris,

1st Year (0-0)

**Career Record:** 63-68

**Stadium:** Stanford Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 85,500

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 50/11

#### OFFENSE

QB	5	Trent Edwards (6-4, 210, Sr.)
FB	31	Kris Bonifas (6-1, 235, Sr.)
RB	9	J.R. Lemon (6-1, 225, Sr.)
LT	78	Jon Cochran (6-6, 315, Sr.)
LG	79	Ismail Simpson (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	71	Brian Head (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RG	59	Josiah Vinson (6-4, 310, Sr.)
RT	70	Jeff Edwards (6-7, 290, Sr.)
TE	87	Matt Traverso (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	8	Evan Moore (6-7, 235, Jr.)
WR	4	Mark Bradford (6-2, 190, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	94	Julian Jenkins (6-4, 275, Sr.)
NT	96	Babatunde Oshinowo (6-2, 320, Sr.)
DE	92	Casey Carroll (6-2, 290, Sr.)
OLB	37	Jon Alston (6-1, 215, Sr.)
ILB	47	Kevin Schimmelmann (6-3, 228, Sr.)
ILB	55	Michael Okwo (6-0, 215, Jr.)
OLB	56	Tauai Fonoti (6-2, 250, Sr.)
CB	35	T.J. Rushing (5-11, 175, Sr.)
CB	25	Calvin Armstrong (6-1, 195, Sr.)
FS	24	Trevor Hooper (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	23	Brandon Harrison (6-2, 205, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Michael Sgroi (5-11, 200, Sr.)
P	27	Jay Ottavio (6-0, 190, Jr.)

# ARIZONA

## WILDCATS



**2004 Record:** 3-8 overall, 2-6 Pac-10

**Official athletic Web site:** www.arizonaathletics.com

No fan base in the Pac-10 has higher expectations than USC's, and with good reason. But on a relative scale—the level of expectations compared to past performance and current talent—the folks in Tucson aren't far behind the Trojan faithful.

Despite winning just three games last season and returning only one all-league player—a second-team selection, at that—Arizona fans expect second-year coach Mike Stoops to have the Wildcats competing for a bowl berth.

"It's different this year," Stoops says. "The speed that our players are able to do things at, the confidence level. ... We feel like we have a much better plan. And our kids have made huge strides with their physical capabilities, and I think you will notice a different speed we are playing the game at."

A bowl bid isn't out of the question, but the 'Cats didn't get any breaks with the schedule. The non-conference slate includes Purdue and a trip to Utah, and once league play begins, Arizona probably will be favored in just two games: at home against Stanford and Washington.

What's more, the 'Cats have one of the least-talented amalgam of quarterbacks in a QB-dominated conference. Incumbent Richard Kovalcheck (six touchdowns and six interceptions last season) did not participate in spring practice because of offseason back surgery. Junior Adam Austin, a former walk-on, got most of the snaps and performed well enough to make Kovalcheck have to prove himself during training camp. Both veterans will be challenged by freshman Willie Tuitama.

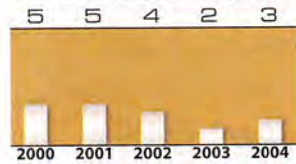
The Wildcats have two quality tailbacks in sophomore Chris Henry, nicknamed the Predator, and senior Mike Bell, who rushed for 950 yards last season.

And the receivers are solid, led by Anthony Johnson, Syndric Steptoe and Mike Jefferson, who caught two touchdowns in the upset of Arizona State last season.

What the defensive line lacks in proven playmakers, the secondary has. Darrell Brooks is an all-league safety, Lamon Means is a ferocious hitter and sophomore Antoine Cason might be the best young cornerback in the league.

The linebacking unit has several talented redshirt freshmen.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 2	@UTAH	6-23
S. 10	Northern Arizona	21-3
S. 17	Purdue	
O. 1	@CALIFORNIA	0-38
O. 8	@USC	9-49
O. 15	Stanford	
O. 22	Oregon	14-28
O. 29	@OREGON STATE	14-28
N. 5	UCLA	17-37
N. 12	Washington	23-13
N. 25	@ARIZONA STATE	34-27

**Head coach:** Mike Stoops,

2nd Year (3-8)

**Career Record:** 3-8

**Stadium:** Arizona Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 56,002

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/13

#### OFFENSE

QB	8	Richard Kovalcheck (6-2, 211, So.)
FB	48	Pedro Limon (6-0, 244, Jr.)
RB	11	Mike Bell (6-1, 218, Sr.)
LT	76	Peter Graniello (6-7, 293, So.)
LG	69	John Abramo (6-4, 294, Sr.)
C	66	Kili Lefotu (6-5, 315, Sr.)
RG	75	Joe Longacre (6-4, 310, r-Fr.)
RT	72	Tanner Bell (6-8, 300, Sr.)
TE	87	Brandyn McCall (6-5, 250, Jr.)
WR	2	B.J. Vickers (6-3, 215, Jr.)
WR	1	Syndric Steptoe (5-9, 170, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	55	Marcus Smith (6-5, 249, Sr.)
NT	94	Byron Smith (6-2, 295, Sr.)
DT	56	Paul Philipp (6-3, 278, Jr.)
DE	49	Copeland Bryan (6-4, 240, Sr.)
LB	39	Dane Krogstad (6-1, 226, Sr.)
LB	33	Ronnie Palmer (6-2, 217, r-Fr.)
LB	32	Randy Sims (5-11, 225, Sr.)
CB	3	Wilrey Fontenot (5-9, 170, So.)
CB	5	Antoine Cason (6-1, 180, So.)
FS	6	Darrell Brooks (6-1, 210, Sr.)
SS	20	Lamon Means (6-3, 232, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Nick Folk (6-2, 206, Jr.)
P	13	Jason Bondzio (5-9, 170, r-Fr.)



**EAST**

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6

**WEST**

Games to watch:

>> **Tennessee at Florida**, Sept. 17

The luster is back on this annual grudge match; the winner will be hard to unseat as SEC East champion.

>> **Tennessee at LSU**, Sept. 24

The Vols will be either fighting for survival or cementing themselves as national players. Same for LSU after hosting Arizona State a week earlier.

>> **Auburn at LSU**, Oct. 22

Winner of this game has played for SEC title four of the last five years.

official conference website:  
[www.secsports.com](http://www.secsports.com)

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

### Offense

QB	Chris Leak, Jr., Florida
RB	Jerious Norwood, Sr., Miss. St.
RB	Gerald Riggs, Jr., Tennessee
OL	Mike Degory, Sr., Florida
OL	Max Jean-Gilles, Sr., Georgia
OL	Marcus McNeill, Sr., Auburn
OL	Arron Sears, Jr., Tennessee
OL	Andrew Whitworth, Sr., LSU
TE	Leonard Pope, Jr., Georgia
WR	Chad Jackson, Jr., Florida
WR	Courtney Taylor, Jr., Auburn
PK	John Vaughn, Sr., Auburn

### Defense

DL	McKinley Boykin, Sr., Ole Miss
DL	Jesse Mahelona, Sr., Tenn.
DL	Tommy Jackson, Sr., Auburn
DL	Claude Wroten, Sr., LSU
LB	Omar Gaither, Sr., Tennessee
LB	Brandon Siler, So., Florida
LB	Travis Williams, Sr., Auburn
DB	Jason Allen, Sr., Tennessee
DB	Roman Harper, Sr., Alabama
DB	LaRon Landry, Jr., LSU
DB	Ko Simpson, So., South Carolina
P	Eric Wilbur, Jr., Florida



## High-profile new coaches provide SEC fans with yet another dazzling debate

By Scott Rabalais  
*The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate*

Southeastern Conference football fans are competitive about everything. Who has the best team, the prettiest cheerleaders, the best fight song, the biggest stadium, the best tailgating.

This year, four SEC teams have one more thing to compete about:

Who has the best new coach?

A full one-third of the conference's prized coaching positions have changed hands with three new faces and one familiar one: Urban Meyer at Florida, Les Miles at LSU, Ed Orgeron at Ole Miss and Steve Spurrier at South Carolina.

So who is the best?

Well, Meyer has a reputation for quick fixes, something Florida needs. Miles became known for being a giant killer at Oklahoma State, the only coach yet to beat Oklahoma's Bob Stoops more than once. Orgeron is unsurpassed in enthusiasm, and has a couple of national championship rings on his hand from being an assistant at Southern California.

And Spurrier? Well, he was known as the evil genius during his decade at Florida, the SEC's best offensive mind, and there's little reason to think three seasons away from the conference have changed that.

While there may be a transfusion of new blood in the SEC, there is no reason to think the important things will change: that this will be

the toughest conference, top to bottom, in the country every week.

Meyer expected nothing less when he left Utah and shunned Notre Dame to take the challenge of bringing Florida back to the top of the SEC heap.

"It's exactly what I thought," Meyer says. "The best conference in college football. The best players, the best coaching, the best passion."

The SEC has produced four national champions since going to divisional play in 1992—Alabama in 1993, Florida in 1996, Tennessee in 1998 and LSU in 2003. The conference has also had another school, Auburn, turn in a pair of perfect but national championship-less seasons.

The SEC offers three prime candidates for this season's BCS national championship game in the Rose Bowl: Tennessee (led not by a new man but by SEC dean of coaches Phillip Fulmer), LSU and Florida.

Then again, maybe it would be best if Auburn gets to smell the roses, having been the odd undefeated team out of last year's BCS title game in the Orange Bowl.

Perhaps that was another "best" for the SEC:

Best reason yet for having a college football playoff.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Xavier Carter, LSU
Best hands	Glenn Holt, WR, Kentucky
Best passing QB	Chris Leak, Florida
Best option QB	Jay Cutler, Vanderbilt
Most elusive RB	Gerald Riggs, Tennessee
Best instincts	Ko Simpson, DB, South Carolina
Best athlete	Chad Jackson, WR, Florida
Best under pressure	Brodie Croyle, DB, Alabama
Top NFL prospect	Leonard Pope, TE, Georgia
Top impact freshman	Ryan Perrilloux, DB, LSU
Hardest hitter	Odell Thurman, LB, Georgia
Biggest underachiever	Lance Laury, LB, South Carolina

### Rating the coaches

Best recruiter	Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee
Best strategist	Steve Spurrier, South Carolina
Coach on the spot	Houston Nutt, Arkansas

### Don't be surprised if ...

An SEC team once again gets into position to play for the BCS title—or at least argue that they should. Tennessee, LSU and Florida have the best chance.

### One man's opinion

"If Mike Shula doesn't win a big game this year, the fans [at Alabama] will start to turn on him."

—an SEC assistant coach

### Rating the recruits

1. <b>Tennessee</b>	Phillip Fulmer racked up a super national class, led by DBs Demetrick Morley and Adam Myers-White.
2. <b>Georgia</b>	Buildings restocked well, including the stud North Carolina pass-and-catch combo of Joe Cox and Mohamed Massaquoi.
3. <b>Florida</b>	Gators recruited well under Ron Zook, same story with Urban Meyer.
4. <b>Auburn</b>	Not undefeated in recruiting, but won most of the battles that counted.
5. <b>Alabama</b>	Is the next great RB duo in Alabama going to be Mike Ford and Roy Upchurch?
6. <b>LSU</b>	Les Miles' first class short on numbers (13) but long on quality, led by DB Ryan Perrilloux.
7. <b>South Carolina</b>	Rescued class with three late commitments in Jonathan Hannah, Carlos Thomas and Cade Thompson.
8. <b>Arkansas</b>	Quality at the top with RB Darren McFadden and DE Marcus Shevers.
9. <b>Ole Miss</b>	Got some big names but biggest, OT Jerrell Powe, not expected to qualify.
10. <b>Mississippi State</b>	Did well in-state, but closing the talent gap with the SEC's top teams still a challenge.
11. <b>Kentucky</b>	Signed Kentucky Mr. Football QB Curtis Puley, but that's not like signing Kentucky's Mr. Basketball.
12. <b>Vanderbilt</b>	The Commodores' best signees, like QB Mackenzi Adams, would be middle-of-the-pack for the SEC's top schools.





#### MORE ABOUT KELSO STURGEON:

Author: The Complete Guide To Sports Betting" (Harper & Row)

Authored over 1,000 articles on handicapping seen in College & Pro Football Newsweekly, Sportsform.

Seen on TV's Pro Line (USA Cable Network)

Profiled in: Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Playboy.

Creator of the famous "World Series of Handicapping"

Only sports handicapper to ever address the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.

#### Just Check Out A Partial List Of My Top Plays From Last Year's Record

Steelers (-3 1/2) Texans	38-3	W
Lions (+1) Bears	20-16	W
Ravens(-3 1/2) Steelers	30-13	W
Louisville(-10)Kentucky	28-0	W
Purdue (-12 1/2)Syracuse	51-0	W
Fresno St(-1 1/2)Wash	35-16	W
Arizona St (-3) Iowa	44-7	W
N Dame (-10 1/2) Wash	38-3	W
So Miss (-14) Tulane	32-14	W
Purdue (-2 1/2) N Dame	41-16	W
VA Tech (+16) USC	13-24	W
Memphis (+6) Miss	20-13	W
Troy St(+15)Marshall	17-15	W
Fresno St(+12)Kan. St	45-21	W
N Dame (+10 1/2) Mich.	28-20	W
Oregon (+28) Okla.	7-31	W
BYU (+21) Boise St	27-28	W
NC St (+7) VA Tech	17-16	W
Michigan (+7 1/2) Texas	37-38	W
Eagles (-6) Falcons	27-10	W
Pats (-3)Steelers	41-27	W
Eagles (+7) Patriots	21-24	W
Eagles-Patriots ↓ 46 1/2	21-24	W

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RICK CLAUSEN, QB

# TENNESSEE

## VOLUNTEERS



KNOXVILLE, TENN

2004 Record: 10-3 overall, 7-1 SEC (beat Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, 38-7)

Stadium: Neyland Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 104,079

Official athletic Web site: www.utsports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Phillip Fulmer, 14th Year (123-31) Career Record: 123-31

Assistant coaches: John Chavis (asst. head coach/def. coord./LBs), Randy Sanders (off. coord./QB), Greg Adkins (TEs/off. line/recruiting coord.), Dan Brooks (def. line), Steve Caldwell (def. ends), Larry Slade (def. backs), Jimmy Ray Stephens (off. line), Trooper Taylor (RBs), Pat Washington (WRs)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	UAB	
S. 17	@FLORIDA	30-28
S. 24	@LSU	
O. 1	Mississippi	21-17
O. 8	Georgia	19-14
O. 22	@ALABAMA	17-13
O. 29	South Carolina	43-29
N. 5	@NOTRE DAME	13-17
N. 12	Memphis	
N. 19	Vanderbilt	38-33
N. 26	@KENTUCKY	37-31

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 52/21

#### OFFENSE

QB	16	Rick Clausen (6-3, 198, Sr.)
FB	45	Cory Anderson (6-3, 275, Jr.)
TB	21	Gerald Riggs Jr. (6-0, 217, Sr.)
LT	76	Arron Sears (6-4, 330, Jr.)
LG	52	Rob Smith (6-4, 306, Jr.)
C	66	David Ligon (6-5, 300, Jr.)
RG	70	Cody Douglas (6-4, 330, Sr.)
RT	72	Albert Toaina (6-6, 355, Sr.)
TE	28	Chris Brown (6-3, 239, So.)
WR	3	Robert Meachem (6-3, 218, So.)
WR	17	C.J. Foyton (6-2, 205, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	98	Parys Haralson (6-2, 248, Sr.)
LT	92	Justin Harrell (6-4, 306, Jr.)
RT	55	Jesse Mahelona (6-2, 297, Sr.)
RE	94	Jason Hall (6-3, 260, Sr.)
WLB	35	Jason Mitchell (6-1, 227, Sr.)
MLB	2	Kevin Simon (5-11, 234, Sr.)
SLB	44	Omar Gaither (6-2, 230, Sr.)
LCB	18	Jason Allen (6-2, 202, Sr.)
RCB	36	Roshawn Fellows (6-0, 184, So.)
FS	33	Jonathan Hefney (5-10, 174, So.)
SS	24	Antwan Stewart (6-0, 193, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	25	James Wilhoit (5-10, 198, Jr.)
P	47	Britton Colquitt (6-3, 198, Fr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Demetrick Morley, DB  
A five-star blue-chipper who could play early.
- Adam Myers-White, FS  
One of the top free safeties in the country.
- Josh McNeil, C  
No pressure, Josh, but they may need you now.
- LaMarcus Coker, RB  
Tennessee coaches are high on his ability.
- Jonathan Crompton, QB  
A highly rated pro-style quarterback from N.C.

## After 10-win season filled with injuries, '05 ought to be piece of cake for loaded Vols

**T**eams, coaches and players have come and gone in the Southeastern Conference the last 13 years, reaching the heights then falling back to the pack.

Only one SEC team, Tennessee, has been the model of consistency. Only one team, the Volunteers, has won at least eight games every season since the conference went to divisional play in 1992. And a couple of SEC titles and a national championship, too.

This season, the Volunteers are expected to do nothing less than contend for all the honors. After all, if Tennessee could weather the injuries and problems it did in 2004 and still reach the SEC Championship Game and still go 10-3 with a 38-7 throttling of Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, why not dream big?

For Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer, who took over from Johnny Majors during that 1992 season and has become the dean of SEC coaches, the mantle of great expectations are as familiar as the orange shirt he wears each Saturday in the fall.

"I don't feel any more pressure than anyone else does," says Fulmer, 123-31 as coach of his alma mater. "At our place you're expected to win and win a lot. That's OK. That's where we are with what we've created. I don't mind at all."

What Fulmer minds are the off-the-field incidents, which have been plentiful for the Vols this offseason.

Quarterback Brent Schaeffer was suspended from the team, then later decided to transfer. Wide receiver Bret Smith and defensive end Robert Ayres were also suspended. Defensive tackle Tori McDaniel's future with the team was also shaky as spring turned into summer.

The problems focused a light on the one thing that could undo the Vols' championship hopes: themselves. Chemistry, intangibles, equilibrium, all could be upset by too many distractions.

For now, though, in terms of pure talent and experience, the Volunteers are the team to beat. Of the 22 offensive and defensive starters in the Cotton Bowl, 16 return, seven on offense and eight on defense.

It is defense that will lead the Vols to the Rocky Top if they are to get there. The defense certainly

showed the offense who was boss in spring practice, not giving up a single point to the No. 1 offense in live action.

By far the best news Fulmer got during the offseason was defensive end Parys Haralson's decision to return for his senior season. Haralson tormented opposing quarterbacks last year with seven sacks and 21 hurries, both team highs. Senior Jason Hall (27 tackles) is Haralson's opposite number at the other end spot.

Hawaiian tough guy Jesse Mahelona is back at defensive tackle after an All-America junior season. Mahelona had 42 stops in 2004, including a team-best 18 tackles for loss, and even played through a sprained medial collateral ligament against Alabama.

With McDaniel's status in doubt, the Volunteers may have to depend on incoming freshman Demonte Bolden, who enrolled in January after leaving prep school, at the other tackle slot.

The only loss among last year's defensive starters, All-America outside linebacker Kevin Burnett, prompted some shifting throughout the linebacker corps. Senior Jason Mitchell shifts from middle linebacker to Burnett's weakness spot. Senior Kevin Simon, who played in the middle until tearing his anterior cruciate ligament, returns there, while senior Omar Gaither is on the strongside.

If there is a weak link, it is the secondary. The return of senior Jason Allen helped. He reportedly wanted to go pro but was lured back to Knoxville with the promise he could switch from free safety to cornerback. Sophomore Roshawn Fellows is at the other corner.

With Allen's move, both safety spots are huge question marks. Sophomore Jonathan Hefney, listed at 5-10 but at least an inch shorter, is an undersized free safety. Strong safety is a mess. Sophomore Antwan Stewart is penciled in there now, but he was limited in the spring from a torn ACL suffered last spring. Defensive coordinator John Chavis' last word from spring practice was that aside from Allen, no defensive back's position was safe.

The starting quarterback spot also must be sorted out. Though Schaeffer is gone, former starter Erik Ainge, a sophomore, is back from the shoulder injury that paved the way for senior Rick Clausen to start the last four games. Neither was able to pull in front before the spring ended. Ainge completed 109 of 198 passes for 1,452 yards and



7 touchdowns, while Clausen completed 81 of 136 attempts for 949 yards and eight scores.

The starting tailback, senior Gerald Riggs Jr., isn't hard to identify after rushing for 1,107 yards and six TDs last year, completing a 1,000-yard backfield duo with the departed Cedric Houston (1,005 yards). Finding a backup for Riggs proved elusive, as neither redshirt freshmen Arian Foster nor JaKouri Williams distinguished themselves. Junior Cory Anderson is a dependable fullback.

Tennessee is once again Wide Receiver U. with the likes of sophomore Robert Meachem (459 yards receiving, 4 TDs), senior C.J. Fayton (379 yards, 3 TDs) and Smith (291 yards, team-high 5 TDs). Tight end is a puzzle, however, as only sophomore Chris Brown made it through healthy.

The center spot must also be sorted out as senior Richie Gandy tore his ACL playing basketball during the winter. He promised to be back for two-a-days, but junior David Ligon played in his place during the spring. Junior Arron Sears flirted with the NFL draft but came back, and will line up alongside junior Rob Smith. Senior Cody Douglas is at right guard while senior Albert Toeaina is at right tackle.

If winning is a tradition for Tennessee, so is having a Colquitt handle the Volunteers' punting. Redshirt freshman Britton Colquitt takes over from older brother Dustin, who was the Vols' punter the last four seasons and yes, Britton is a very good punter. He and Dustin are part of the long orange line of punting Colquitts that began with their dad Craig (1975-77) and included Craig's cousin Jimmy (1981-84).

While Tennessee fans will probably rest easy in the knowledge that another Colquitt foot is on the job, the placekicker position is a different story. Junior kicker James Wilhoit, who made 10 of 17 field goals and 44 of 45 extra points last season, underwent surgery on his foot during the spring. That left most of the duties to senior Ryan Fusco, who struggled during spring practice. If both falter, Britton Colquitt (big surprise) can also place kick.

Tennessee schedules typically start tough and taper off through November, but this year's slate adds a couple of extra degrees of difficulty.

After a Sept. 3 home opener with UAB, the Volunteers face a pair of make-or-break road games at Florida on Sept. 17 and Sept. 24 at LSU. The Vols come home to play Georgia on Oct. 8 then head to Alabama on Oct. 22. Crimson Tide fans are sure to be lying in wait for Fulmer, who testified against Alabama in the NCAA investigation that landed the 'Bama football program on probation several years ago.

After a visit from Fulmer's old nemesis, Steve Spurrier, and his new South Carolina team on Oct. 29, the Vols head to South Bend for a rematch with the Notre Dame team that won 17-13 in Knoxville last season.

If the Vols can get past the Florida-LSU double whammy with an undefeated record still intact, their championship hopes will be riding high.

If Tennessee is 1-2 heading into October, there will be way too many games left to enjoy just playing out the string.

## IN PROFILE ... KEVIN SIMON

**Hard-luck Vols linebacker eager to stay on field for senior season**

If anyone is due for a break (no pun intended), it's Tennessee linebacker Kevin Simon.

One of the best linebackers in the nation because of his ability to fly to the ball, Simon is projected as either the middle or weakside 'backer for the Volunteers—that is, if he can avoid the injuries that seem to follow him wherever the 5-11, 230-pound senior goes.

It all started during Simon's senior year at prep powerhouse De La Salle in California, where he was an All-America linebacker and also the team's running back his senior year. Later that year in a high school all-star game, Simon tore his right ACL, just months before he was to report to Tennessee.

Simon redshirted his first year in order to rehab the knee, then came back in 2002 and made an immediate impact, starting three of the Volunteers' first four games. But Simon suffered a broken ankle during that fourth game, essentially shutting down his sophomore season. Again Simon had to go through rehab, plus he had arthroscopic surgery on his knee in the offseason.

Finally, Simon was able to enjoy an injury-free season, showing what he could do when given an opportunity. In 2003, he started all 13 games, recording team highs in both tackles (115) and sacks (4.5), while also adding his first career

interception. It was enough for him to be named an *Associated Press* second-team All-SEC pick at linebacker.

But just when things were looking up, they quickly took a turn for the worst last season. In the second game of the season against rival Florida, Simon tore his ACL—this time on the left knee.

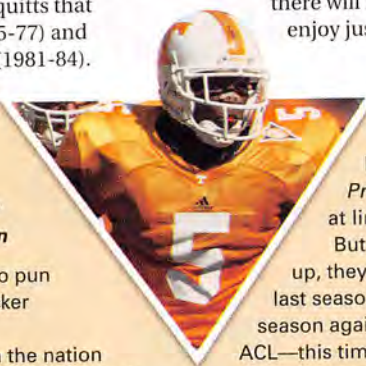
If you're keeping score at home, that's torn ACLs on both knees, a broken ankle and countless hours spent rehabbing those injuries—all in the last five years. An appeal has been made by Vols coach Phillip Fulmer to grant Simon an extra year of eligibility due to the ailments.

Once again, Simon has healed from another injury. He participated in workouts this spring, but was wisely held out of any contact drills. If he can avoid injury, the addition of Simon will give Tennessee a strong linebacker trio that already includes All-SEC performer Omar Gaither and senior Jason Mitchell.

During his spring press conference, Fulmer was optimistic about his defense as a whole, which can only get better if the Vols have a healthy Simon all season.

"We started the season with the youngest defensive front in the conference by far, lost Kevin Simon and yet they held it together and did a super job," Fulmer said. "I am excited about our defensive front as to what we have now, and what we can be as we continue to develop."

—Matt McKenzie



## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	UT	OPP
SCORING	378	295
Points Per Game	29.1	22.7
FIRST DOWNS	276	255
Rushing	119	96
Passing	134	134
Penalty	23	25
RUSHING YARDAGE	2418	1560
Yards gained rushing	2667	2006
Yards lost rushing	249	446
Rushing Attempts	520	451
Average Per Rush	4.7	3.5
Average Per Game	186.0	120.0
TDs Rushing	21	15
PASSING YARDAGE	2775	3073
Att-Comp-Int	376-210-15	418-254-16
Average Per Pass	7.4	7.4
Average Per Catch	13.2	12.1
Average Per Game	213.5	236.4
TDs Passing	27	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	5193	4633
Total Plays	896	869
Average Per Play	5.8	5.3
Average Per Game	399.5	356.4
KICK RETURNS: # YDS	28-511	42-767
PUNT RETURNS: # YDS	33-200	24-88
INT RETURNS: # YDS	16-71	15-103
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.2	18.3
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	6.1	3.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	4.4	6.9
FUMBLES-LOST	13-7	25-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	85-732	92-679
Average Per Game	56.3	52.2
PUNTS-YARDS	59-2387	71-2939
Average Per Punt	40.5	41.4
Net punt average	39.0	38.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:12	29:35
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/178	68/177
3rd-Down Pct	43%	38%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/11	6/13
4th-Down Pct	55%	46%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-232	17-105
MISC YARDS	18	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	37
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	10-17	12-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	44-46	33-35
ATTENDANCE	746507	268486
Games/Avg Per Game	7/106644	4/67122
Neutral Site Games		2/75298

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Tennessee	107	103	75	93	—	378
Opponent	87	86	34	88	—	295

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

<b>Erik Ainge</b>	GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	9	135.89	198-109-9	55.1	1452	17	161.3

<b>Rick Clausen</b>	GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	7	130.23	136-81-5	59.6	949	8	135.6

<b>Brent Schaeffer</b>	GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	8	129.64	37-18-1	48.6	302	2	37.8

<b>RUSHING</b>	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Gerald Riggs	13	193	1107	5.7	85.2
Cedric Houston	13	181	1005	5.6	77.3
David Yancey	7	24	116	4.8	16.6

<b>RECEIVING</b>	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tony Brown	13	31	388	12.5	3	29.8
Jayson Swain	13	29	388	13.4	4	29.8
Robert Meachem	13	25	459	18.4	4	35.3

### DEFENSE

<b>TACKLES</b>	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Jason Allen	13	88	35	123
Kevin Burnett	13	90	30	120
Omar Gaither	13	72	20	92

<b>SACKS</b>	GP	No.	Yds.
Parys Haralson	13	7.0	36
Jesse Mahelona	13	5.0	52
Karlton Neal	12	3.0	27

<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Corey Campbell	4	1	0.2	0
Roshawn Fellows	3	8	2.7	0
Jason Allen	2	4	2.0	0





CHRIS LEAK, QB



# FLORIDA GATORS



GAINESVILLE, FLA

**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 4-4 SEC (lost to Miami in the Peach Bowl, 27-10)  
**Stadium:** Ben Hill Griffin Stadium  
**Turf:** Grass  
**Capacity:** 88,548  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.gatorzone.com

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVEYEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Urban Meyer, 1st Year (0-0) **Career Record:** 39-8

**Assistant coaches:** Steve Addazio (TEs), Stan Drayton (RBs), Billy Gonzales (WRs), Chuck Heater (recruiting coord./secondary), John Hevesy (off. line), John "Doc" Holliday (safeties), Greg Mattison (co-def. coord./def. line), Dan Mullen (off. coord./QB), Charlie Strong (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Wyoming	
S. 10	Louisiana Tech	
S. 17	Tennessee	28-30
S. 24	@KENTUCKY	20-3
O. 1	@ALABAMA	
O. 8	Mississippi State	31-38
O. 15	@LSU	21-24
O. 29	Georgia	24-31
N. 5	Vanderbilt	34-17
N. 12	@SOUTH CAROLINA	48-14
N. 26	Florida State	20-13

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

### OFFENSE

QB	12	Chris Leak (6-0, 195, Jr.)
RB	25	Skyler Thornton (5-11, 210, Jr.)
LT	72	Lance Butler (6-7, 298, Sr.)
LG	76	Tavares Washington (6-3, 307, Sr.)
C	68	Mike Degory (6-6, 306, Sr.)
RG	63	Jim Tarrt (6-3, 305, r-Fr.)
RT	74	Randy Hand (6-6, 305, Sr.)
TE	89	Markell Thompson (6-6, 265, Sr.)
WR	8	Chad Jackson (6-1, 202, Jr.)
WR	5	Andre Caldwell (6-1, 195, Jr.)
WR	81	Dallas Baker (6-3, 205, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	57	Jeremy Mincey (6-4, 258, So.)
DT	44	Marcus Thomas (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	95	Ray McDonald (6-3, 285, Jr.)
DE	20	Joe Cohen (6-2, 270, Jr.)
LB	30	Earl Everett (6-2, 224, Jr.)
LB	40	Brandon Siler (6-2, 230, So.)
LB	42	Billy Latsko (5-10, 230, Jr.)
CB	15	Dee Webb (5-11, 190, Jr.)
CB	16	Vernell Brown (5-8, 165, Sr.)
FS	46	Jarvis Herring (5-11, 201, Sr.)
SS	3	Kyle Jackson (6-0, 191, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	21	Jonathan Phillips (6-0, 195, Fr.)
P	10	Eric Wilbur (6-2, 192, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Avery Atkins, CB**  
A top-100 prospect who could step in right away.
- Jon Demps, LB**  
Had 160 tackles, 6 sacks, 5 forced fumbles as a sr.
- Kalvin Baker, LB**  
As a junior, led all Ga. prep players with 29 sacks.
- Darrell Gresham Jr., LB**  
Rated as one of the nation's 10 best LB prospects.
- David Nelson, WR**  
Tall and swift; had 91 catches and 18 TDs in 2004.

## Urban renewal project provides hope for Gator revival, but will it spring a Leak?

**T**he SEC-leading 58,500 fans who showed up for Florida's spring game in April was an indication of:

A. How much confidence Gator fans have that new coach Urban Meyer will quickly lead Florida back to the top.

B. A Gator Nation thirsty for wins after three un-Florida-like years under former coach Ron Zook.

C. A little of both.

There are two reasons to think that Meyer will win and win quickly at Florida: Bowling Green and Utah.

Meyer has become known as the king of the quick fix in college football. His first Bowling Green team in 2001 went 8-3 after a 2-9 record in 2001, the biggest turnaround in college football that year. His second squad went 9-3 before Meyer winged west to Salt Lake City.

At Utah, he led the Utes to a 10-2 mark in 2003, a 12-0 record last year and berth in the Fiesta Bowl opposite Pittsburgh, a first for a team from a non-BCS conference.

Now, Florida fans hope Meyer can do for the Gators what Steve Spurrier did a decade and a half ago: turn Florida into a football superpower.

Meyer isn't completely the second coming of Steve, however. Spurrier is folksy, with his country boy veneer hiding a jewel thief persona, and delights as much in jabbing an opponent with a needle as completing another long touchdown pass on them.

Meyer comes off as much more polished, serious, and, well, Urbane than Spurrier. It's hard to imagine Meyer poking fun at an opponent, saying you can't spell Peach Bowl without the "E" and the "A" from Georgia or something like that.

Oh, that's right. The Peach Bowl is where Florida was last seen, getting pitted by despised downstate rival Miami 27-10 to finish 7-5.

No, instead of Spurrier-like quipping, Meyer set a respectful tone as he prepared to enter his first



URBAN MEYER

season in the ultra-competitive SEC.

"At other places a lot of players come for the free education," he says. "They come to school in the SEC because they want to compete at the highest level."

The chance to compete—and win—at Florida led Meyer to move to Gainesville though he was also strongly courted by Notre Dame, his one-time "dream job."

But in the case of Meyer's ultimate career move, dreams were trumped by reality. The reality of having the kind of talent on hand to work another of his patented quick turnarounds.

"The opportunity to compete at the highest level was attractive to us," Meyer says of himself and his family.

While the Fun 'n' Gun offense was the staple of the Spurrier era, the less colorfully named but equally effective spread option will be the hallmark of the Meyer regime. The offense calls for some option, lots of reverses and also lots of vertical passes, pressuring the defense at multiple points.

The offense helped Utah quarterback Alex Smith become the No. 1 NFL draft pick in April, but at the same time Florida junior quarterback Chris Leak was having his doubts that he could master the system. Eventually Leak came around, making hopes that he can better last year's marks of 3,197 yards and 29 touchdowns passing a possibility.

Backup quarterback Gavin Dickey split his spring between football and baseball. In the fall he could be splitting his time between quarterback and receiver.

Not that the Gators are hurting for receivers. Andre Caldwell (16.0 yards per catch, 3 TDs), Chad Jackson (22.3, 6) and Dallas Baker (15.8, 5) all return. In fact, though Dickey may catch some passes, Reggie Lewis was shipped out to cornerback, where he will battle Vernell Brown for the starting spot opposite Demetric Webb.

The Gators possess three solid running backs, though none emerged as the clear successor to Ciatrick Faison in the spring. Skyler Thornton





(230 yards rushing, 1 TD) is the top returning ground gainer and had a solid spring. But Deshawn Wynn (217 yards, 5 TDs) and newcomer Markus Manson will also get their carries.

The starting offensive line is solid, led by senior center Mike Degory, who Meyer once tried to recruit when he was an assistant at Notre Dame. The depth is shallow, however. Lance Butler and Randy Hand return at the tackles, while Tavares Washington moved from tackle to guard. Redshirt freshman Jim Tartt was a surprise of the spring, nailing down the starting job at right guard.

The entire starting defensive line returns, with Jeremy Mincey and Joe Cohen at ends and Marcus Thomas and Ray McDonald at tackles. Thomas missed the entire spring with a back injury but is expected to be fine, while Cohen spent the offseason recovering from hip surgery.

Florida had just two dependable linebackers when spring practice began. But Meyer's offense employs no fullbacks. Presto chango and—voila!—Billy Latsko and Eric Rutledge are now linebackers. Latsko actually had a strong spring and may get to play a lot this fall. Brandon Siler moves from an outside linebacker spot to replace Channing Crowder at middle linebacker.

Although cornerback is a concern with Brown and Lewis trying to distinguish themselves at one spot, the safeties are solid. Kyle Jackson started as a true freshman at strong safety last year and returns to that spot this season. Jarvis Herring, a senior, had a great spring, according to his coaches and will start at free safety.

Eric Wilbur returns to punt for the Gators after averaging 42.3 yards per kick in 2004, good for third best in the SEC, with 11 punts traveling 50 yards or more. More importantly, Wilbur pinned opponents inside their own 20 11 times.

Meyer has to wish his placekicking situation was

as settled. In fact, the coach with the penchant for going for it on fourth down hinted in the spring that he may be doing a lot of that in the fall.

Three walk-on kickers are on the Florida roster—Brandon Abbaspour, Chris Hetland and Eric Nappy—but none showed in the spring that they are capable of adequately filling the cleats of the departed Matt Leach. Anxious eyes will be on the foot of incoming freshman Jonathan Phillips this fall.

The Gators return their top return men—Caldwell on kickoffs, Vernell Brown on punts.

The only coach Meyer retained from Zook's staff was Charlie Strong, who served as Florida's interim head coach during the Peach Bowl. Strong was defensive coordinator and defensive ends coach last season but now will coach linebackers and share defensive coordinator duties with Greg Mattison, who comes from Notre Dame. Mattison will also coach the defensive line.

Four coaches followed Meyer from Utah: Billy Gonzales (wide receivers), Chuck Heater (recruiting, secondary), John Hevesey (offensive line) and Dan Mullen (offensive coordinator, quarterbacks). Also new to the staff are former Indiana offensive coordinator Steve Addazio (tight ends), Stan Drayton (running backs) and John "Doc" Holliday (safeties).

A typically important early season showdown pits Florida against Tennessee in Gainesville on Sept. 17, a game that could go a long way toward deciding who wins the SEC East. Big trips to Alabama on Oct. 1 and LSU on Oct. 15 follow, as well as a Nov. 12 game at South Carolina against Spurrier's Gamecocks. The Gators wrap up the regular season at home Nov. 26 against Florida State.

Tough slate. But that's what you get when you sign up to compete at the highest level.



#### IN PROFILE ...

#### ANDRE CALDWELL

*New Gator go-to wideout looks to duplicate brother Reche's 1,000-yard receiving season*

Andre Caldwell doesn't have to look far when it comes to motivation.

It runs in his blood.

Three years ago, Andre chose to attend the University of Florida, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Reche, now with the San Diego Chargers. During his three years at Florida, Reche was one of only nine players to gain more than 1,000 receiving yards in a single season with the Gators.

Now with a new pass-first scheme under new coach Urban Meyer, there's a great chance that Andrew will join his brother on that list.

"This is an offense I love," Caldwell told *The St. Petersburg Times*. "This is the reason I came here: a spread offense, throw it down the field, get it into the playmaker's hands."

Caldwell played sparingly his freshman year, primarily being used as a kickoff-return man and

only catching 19 total passes. But he worked his way into the system last year and quickly became one of Florida's go-to receivers, finishing second on the team with 43 catches for 689 yards. He also tied for the team-high in kick-return yards with 174.

All of that was done under former Gators coach Ron Zook, who at times was known for his conventional play-calling. That likely won't happen with Meyer, who brings with him from Utah a complex offensive system. So much so, in fact, that the Florida receivers spent extra time in the offseason looking at film of last year's Utah receivers to get a better grasp of the system.

With the graduation of wideout O.J. Small, Caldwell returns as Florida's main receiving threat and will likely see an expanded role, which could help him reach that illustrious 1,000-yard mark this season.

It also doesn't hurt that his best friend and suitemate last year also happens to be the player on the throwing side—Florida quarterback Chris Leak.

—Matt McKenzie

#### 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FLORIDA	OPP
SCORING	382	253
Points Per Game	31.8	21.1
FIRST DOWNS	254	239
Rushing	101	102
Passing	138	120
Penalty	15	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	1870	1703
Yards gained rushing	2122	1972
Yards lost rushing	252	269
Rushing Attempts	415	464
Average Per Rush	4.5	3.7
Average Per Game	155.8	141.9
TDs Rushing	20	11
PASSING YARDAGE	3253	2444
Att-Comp-Int	407-243-12	395-219-17
Average Per Pass	8.0	6.2
Average Per Catch	13.4	11.2
Average Per Game	271.1	203.7
TDs Passing	29	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5123	4147
Total Plays	822	859
Average Per Play	6.2	4.8
Average Per Game	426.9	345.6
KICK RETURNS: # YDS	29-515	43-715
PUNT RETURNS: # YDS	28-207	22-323
INT RETURNS: # YDS	17-190	12-57
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.8	16.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.4	14.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	11.2	4.8
FUMBLES-LOST	20-8	11-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	106-844	71-538
Average Per Game	70.3	44.8
PUNTS-YARDS	56-2352	66-2572
Average Per Punt	42.0	39.0
Net punt average	36.2	35.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:13	31:47
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/165	75/188
3rd-Down Pct	48%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/7	7/17
4th-Down Pct	71%	41%
SACKS BY-YARDS	23-140	19-132
MISC YARDS	13	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	49	30
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	13-19	14-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	49-49	27-28
ATTENDANCE	530453	269170
Games/Avg Per Game	6/88409	4/67292
Neutral Site Games		2/77038

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Florida	76	139	92	75	—	382
Opponent	61	82	30	80	—	253

#### 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

##### PASSING

Chris Leak	GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	144.92	399-238-12	59.6	3197	29	266.4

Gavin Dickey	GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	5	138.63	7-5-0	71.4	56	0	11.2

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ciatrick Fason	12	222	1267	5.7	105.6
Skyler Thornton	11	55	230	4.2	20.9
DeShawn Wynn	8	58	217	3.7	27.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
O.J. Small	12	63	719	11.4	4	59.9
Andre Caldwell	12	43	689	16.0	3	57.4
Ciatrick Fason	12	35	266	7.6	2	22.2

##### DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Brandon Siler	12	50	27	77
Earl Everett	11	51	23	74
Channing Crowder	9	44	29	73

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Earl Everett	11	4.5	18
Marcus Thomas	12	4.5	25
Ray McDonald	11	3.0	22

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jarvis Herring	4	24	6.0	0
Demetrice Webb	3	30	10.0	0
Terrence Holmes	3	24	8.0	0





D.J. SHOCKLEY QB

# GEORGIA BULLDOGS



ATHENS, GA.

2004 Record: 10-2 overall, 6-2 SEC (beat Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl, 24-21)  
 Stadium: Sanford Stadium Turf: Grass Capacity: 92,746  
 Official athletic Web site: [www.georgiadogs.com](http://www.georgiadogs.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mark Richt, 5th Year (42-10) Career Record: 42-10

Assistant coaches: Mike Bobo (QBs), Neil Callaway (off. coord./off. line), John Eason (asst. head coach/WRs), Jon Fabris (def. ends), Rodney Garner (asst. head coach/def. line/recruiting coord.), David Johnson (TEs), Willie Martinez (def. coord./secondary), John Jancek (LBs), Kirby Smart (RBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Boise State	
S. 10	South Carolina	20-16
S. 17	Louisiana-Monroe	
S. 24	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
O. 8	@TENNESSEE	14-19
O. 15	@VANDERBILT	33-3
O. 22	Arkansas	20-14
O. 29	@FLORIDA	31-24
N. 12	Auburn	6-24
N. 19	Kentucky	62-17
N. 26	@GEORGIA TECH	19-13

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15

Lettermen returning/lost: 57/15

### OFFENSE

QB	3	D.J. Shockley (6-1, 206, Sr.)
FB	35	Des Williams (6-1, 260, Jr.)
TB	20	Thomas Brown (5-8, 183, So.)
ST	72	Daniel Inman (6-7, 328, Jr.)
SG	70	Nick Jones (6-3, 285, Jr.)
C	50	Russ Tanner (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TG	74	Max Jean-Gilles (6-4, 340, Sr.)
TT	66	Dennis Roland (6-9, 309, Sr.)
TE	81	Leonard Pope (6-7, 250, Jr.)
SE	16	Bryan McClendon (5-11, 184, Sr.)
FL	4	Sean Bailey (6-1, 175, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	58	Will Thompson (6-3, 254, Sr.)
NT	92	Gerald Anderson (6-2, 315, Sr.)
DT	97	Kedric Golston (6-4, 292, Jr.)
DE	94	Quentin Moses (6-5, 248, Jr.)
SLB	12	Brandon Miller (6-4, 238, So.)
MLB	43	Tony Taylor (6-1, 238, Jr.)
WLB	42	Danny Verdun Wheeler (6-2, 245, Jr.)
SC	2	DeMario Minter (6-0, 198, Sr.)
WC	23	Tim Jennings (5-8, 178, Sr.)
FS	17	Greg Blue (6-2, 214, Sr.)
ROV	25	Tra Battle (5-11, 167, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	96	Brandon Coutu (6-0, 197, r-So.)
P	95	Gordon Ely-Kelso (6-2, 234, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Kade Weston, DT  
N.J. product was one of nation's top-rated DTs.
- Bryan Evans, CB  
All-America DB; tallied 770 total yds. on offense.
- Mohamed Massaquoi, WR  
Set N.C. prep records for career yards and TDs.
- C.J. Byrd, S/ATH  
Regarded by some scouts as the top player in S.C.
- Joe Cox, QB  
31-0 as a starter; N.C. prep record 66 career TDs.

## Bulldogs hope this D.J. is able to spin as many wins as QB predecessor Greene

David Greene is gone as Georgia's quarterback, taking with him his NCAA record 42 victories the last four years.

Now at Georgia the mantra is, "In D.J. we trust." They really don't have a choice.

Coach Mark Richt liked to inject backup D.J. Shockley liberally into the Georgia offense the last three years, allowing Greene to rest his record-breaking arm once in a while.

Now, it's Shockley's show.

"We already had some things in the offense that D.J. does better than David," Richt says. "We'll put more emphasis on those. We'll emphasize what he does well."

Even after a spring in which it was estimated he completed only about a third of his passes until the spring game—he was 11 of 19 then and threw for three touchdowns—backups Joe Tereshinski and Blake Barnes could gain no ground.

Playing catchup is something all of the Bulldogs are expected to have to do for the first time since 2001. Georgia will be looking up at Tennessee and Florida in most of the preseason rankings, especially since Georgia goes to Knoxville on Oct. 8 and despite the fact the Bulldogs broke a six-game losing streak to the Gators last season.

Richt credits that in part to the cost of doing business in the (pardon the pun) dog eat dog SEC.

"I think everybody has thought [the SEC East] was one of the toughest if not the toughest division in the United States," Richt says. "Some people are predicting us to be 20th in the country and fourth in the East, and last year we were fourth in the country. It's a tough conference."

Georgia lost only eight starters, but almost all were key. There was Greene, childhood friend David Pollack at defensive tackle, receivers Reggie Brown and Fred Gibson, linebackers Odell Thurman and Arnold Harrison and free safety Thomas Davis. Replacing them has been among the top objectives of the offseason.

The receiving corps is deep if undistinguished. Richt repeated all spring that the biggest mismatch on the practice fields was senior cornerbacks Tim Jennings and DeMario Minter on the receivers. Wideouts T.J. Gartrell and Demiko Goodman showed promise, as did Kenneth Harris,

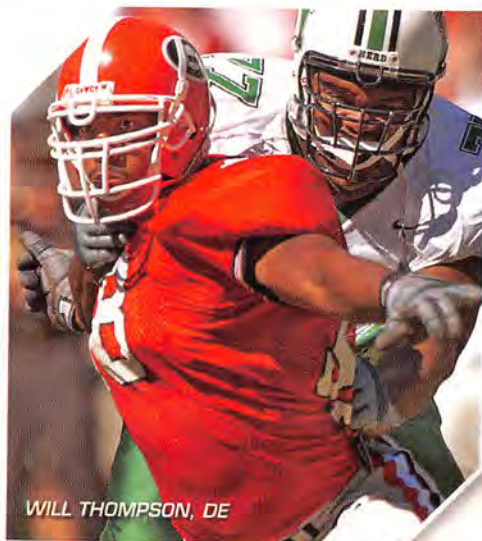
but no consistency.

Senior Will Thompson held down one defensive end spot while junior Quentin Moses and sophomore Charles Johnson battled for the other, neither taking a clear lead. Junior Tony Taylor, who missed all of 2002 with a knee injury, was full strength in the spring and nailed down the middle linebacker spot, while junior Danny Verdun Wheeler returns on the weakside.

The fight to replace Harrison was one of the best of the spring, as senior Derrick White and sophomore Brandon Miller squared off. Unfortunately for White, he got into a real fight along with starting defensive tackle Kedric Golston and is suspended for Georgia's first two games, basically handing the job to Miller. Golston is suspended only for the Sept. 3 opener with Boise State.

Georgia toyed with two-back sets in the spring, needing to develop some depth after sophomore Kregg Lumpkin tore his ACL the first day of practice and Michael Cooper transferred out. Sophomores Thomas Brown and Danny Ware ended up taking most of the snaps, along with senior Tony Milton.

Junior Gordon Ely-Kelso (40.0 average) returns as the punter. Andy Bailey led Georgia in scoring last year but missed a crucial extra point in the Georgia Tech game, creating an opening for fellow sophomore Brandon Coutu. The latter was the difference in Georgia's 24-21 Outback Bowl win over Wisconsin and could be tough to dislodge.



WILL THOMPSON, DE

TOMASSO DEROSA; TOP (L TO R): PHILIP M. WILLIAMS; GLENN DANFORTH



# SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

GAMECOCKS



2004 Record: 6-5 overall, 4-4 SEC

Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.uscsports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 80,250



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

4

8 9 5 5 6  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Steve Spurrier, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 142-40-2

Assistant coaches: Tyrone Nix (co-def. coord./def. line), John Thompson (co-def. coord./LBs), Ron Cooper (OLBs), Madre Hill (RBs), John Hunt (off. line), David Reaves (QB's asst.), Steve Spurrier, Jr. (WRs), Rick Stockstill (TEs/recruiting coord.), Dave Wommack (secondary)

## 'Spurrier: Final Episode' begins run in Columbia with rave reviews expected

**S**equels usually play well at the box office. They did this spring worldwide in the case of the latest Star Wars epic, "Revenge of the Sith," and more locally in South Carolina with "Episode II: The Return of Darth Visor."

We're talking about Steve Spurrier. The Evil Genius. The Ol' Ball Coach. This time, however, in the garnet and black of South Carolina instead of Florida's orange and blue.

Though wildly unsuccessful in two seasons as coach of the Washington Redskins, everyone who had an opening in the SEC wanted Spurrier, including Florida.

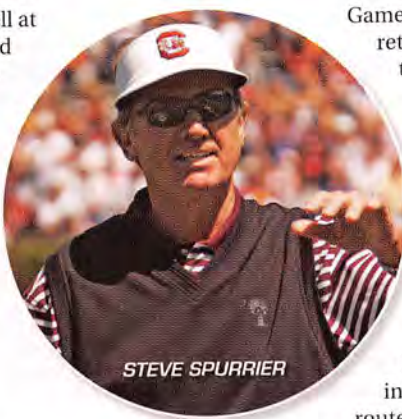
Somewhat shockingly, South Carolina landed him, hoping he can complete the climb to the SEC's high-rent district that Lou Holtz started in six years in Columbia but never quite finished.

Spurrier is still Spurrier, but he also wants his new legion of worshipers to be practical about what it will take for South Carolina to break through to SEC elite status.

"We hope to be at the top of the SEC some day," Spurrier offered after 38,806 showed up at Williams-Brice Stadium to watch the spring game. "It's the same goal as Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, LSU. All their fans expect them to be at the top also. There's only a few schools that don't realistically think they can get to the top. We've got everything here to be successful. We just have to go do it."

As expected, Spurrier has installed what he now calls the "Cock 'N Fire" offense, despite some questions about who will run it. Sophomore Blake Mitchell and redshirt freshman Antonio Heffner go into the fall neck-and-neck for the starting quarterback job. Senior Mike Rathe spent the spring petitioning the NCAA for a sixth year of eligibility.

With tailback Demetris Summers having been dismissed and wide receiver Troy Williamson gone to the NFL, junior Cory Boyd becomes the



STEVE SPURRIER

Gamecocks' offensive MVP: its top returning rusher (309 yards, 3 touchdowns) and receiver (35 catches, 347 yards, TD). Junior receiver Noah Whiteside will be iffy for the season opener after breaking a bone in his ankle in spring practice and Syvelle Newton faces eligibility questions. Sidney Rice redshirted in 2004 following an early season knee injury but looked great in the spring catching one fade route—a Spurrier specialty—after another. Tight end Andy Boyd caught just one pass (for a touchdown) last season.

The line is solid at the tackles with seniors Na'Shan Goddard and Jabari Levey. Junior Chris White has played both guard spots and center but has settled in the middle. The starting guards are likely senior Freddie Saint-Preux on the left side and senior Eric Stroman on the right.

The defensive front has four new starters. Sophomores Stanley Doughty and Marque Hall are expected to start at tackle, with seniors De'Adrian Coley and Charles Silas at ends.

Senior Ricardo Hurley will line up at outside linebacker next to middle man Orus Lambert, another senior. Junior college transfer Mike West arrived in January and quickly moved past senior Lance Laury to take the other outside spot.

The Gamecocks have a strong secondary, led by SEC Freshman-of-the-Year Ko Simpson at rover-back. There are two good cover corners in junior Fred Bennett and sophomore Johnathan Joseph, and sophomore Chris Hampton is at free safety.

Senior punter Josh Brown returns, while incoming freshman Ryan Succop will find the kicking job his to lose.

While Holtz won some games at South Carolina, he rarely pulled off the big upset. While expecting eight or nine wins is a tall order for Spurrier's first season, always expect the unexpected from the Ol' Ball Coach.

If you're favored against the Gamecocks, you've been warned.



KO SIMPSON, FB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	UCF	
S. 10	@GEORGIA	16-20
S. 17	Alabama	20-3
S. 24	Troy	17-7
O. 1	@AUBURN	
O. 8	Kentucky	12-7
O. 22	Vanderbilt	31-6
O. 29	@TENNESSEE	29-43
N. 5	@ARKANSAS	35-32
N. 12	Florida	14-48
N. 19	Clemson	7-29

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/25

### OFFENSE

QB	12	Blake Mitchell (6-3, 194, r-Sr.)
FB	35	Lanard Stafford (5-9, 253, So.)
TB	3	Cory Boyd (6-1, 200, Jr.)
LT	78	Jabari Levey (6-6, 312, Sr.)
LG	54	Freddie Saint-Preux (6-5, 308, Sr.)
C	60	Chris White (6-3, 309, r-Jr.)
RG	58	Eric Stroman (6-3, 280, r-Sr.)
RT	70	Na'Shan Goddard (6-5, 313, r-Sr.)
TE	80	Andy Boyd (6-4, 261, r-Jr.)
WR	13	Syvelle Newton (6-0, 218, Jr.)
WR	1	Noah Whiteside (5-11, 172, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	97	Charles Silas (6-5, 272, r-Sr.)
NG	98	Chris Tucker (6-1, 278, r-Sr.)
DT	79	Marque Hall (6-3, 276, So.)
DE	45	De'Adrian Coley (6-2, 237, Sr.)
LB	5	Mike West (6-0, 206, So.)
LB	42	Ricardo Hurley (6-1, 228, Sr.)
LB	51	Orus Lambert (6-2, 240, r-Sr.)
CB	8	Fred Bennett (6-1, 193, Jr.)
CB	9	Johnathan Joseph (5-11, 187, So.)
FS	10	Ko Simpson (6-1, 199, So.)
SS	23	Tremaine Tyler (5-10, 185, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	64	Ryan Succop (6-3, 210, Fr.)
P	87	Josh Brown (6-3, 203, r-Sr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Mike Davis, RB**  
Spurrier kept South Carolina's top back at home.
- Jonathan Hannah, TE**  
One of the top tight ends in the country.
- O.J. Murdock, WR**  
Spurrier's Fla. ties lured speedster from Tampa.
- Cade Thompson, QB**  
Class 4A Mr. Football in Tennessee.
- Carlos Thomas, WR**  
One of Georgia's 10 best prospects.

SEC EAST

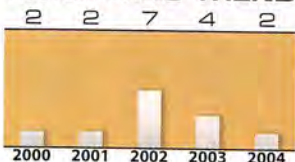


# KENTUCKY

## WILDCATS

2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 SEC  
Official athletic Web site: www.ukathletics.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Louisville	0-28
S. 10	Idaho State	
S. 17	@INDIANA	51-32
S. 24	Florida	3-20
O. 8	@SOUTH CAROLINA	7-12
O. 22	@MISSISSIPPI	
O. 29	Mississippi State	7-22
N. 5	Auburn	10-42
N. 12	@VANDERBILT	14-13
N. 19	@GEORGIA	17-62
N. 26	Tennessee	31-37

Head coach: Rich Brooks,  
3rd Year (6-17)  
Career Record: 97-126-4  
Stadium: Commonwealth Stadium  
Turf: Grass  
Capacity: 67,606

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/26		
OFFENSE		
QB	3	André Woodson (6-5, 230, So.)
FB	25	Alexis Bwenge (6-1, 229, Sr.)
TB	22	Rafael Little (5-11, 195, So.)
LT	69	Aaron Miller (6-6, 285, So.)
LG	64	Cody Morehead (6-5, 320, So.)
C	62	Matt McCutchan (6-3, 295, Sr.)
RG	60	Trai Williams (6-4, 280, Jr.)
RT	57	Hayden Lane (6-6, 280, Jr.)
TE	18	Jacob Tammie (6-5, 234, So.)
WR	19	Keenan Burton (6-2, 195, So.)
WR	1	Scott Mitchell (6-3, 222, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	54	B. Jay Parsons (6-5, 250, Sr.)
DT	91	Trey Mielsch (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DT	45	Lamar Mills (6-1, 285, Jr.)
RE	9	Durrell White (6-3, 245, Jr.)
WLB	16	Wesley Woodyard (6-1, 200, So.)
MLB	44	Jon Sumrall (6-2, 220, Sr.)
SLB	46	Joe Schuler (6-3, 240, So.)
CB	36	Antoine Huffman (6-0, 175, Sr.)
CB	10	Karl Booker (6-1, 189, Jr.)
FS	2	Marcus McClinton (6-1, 206, So.)
SS	42	Muhammad Abdullah (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	89	Taylor Begley (6-0, 200, Sr.)
P	80	Jeff Archer (6-3, 225, Sr.)

The news is promising for Kentucky's offense, pretty dismal for its defense.

When you've won just 17 games the last five seasons, you'll take whatever optimism you can find and work on the rest.

The Wildcats should be better at most on offense, starting at quarterback. Kentucky has a big, strong-armed quarterback in sophomore Andre' Woodson, who completed 54 of 88 passes last season for 492 yards and two touchdowns in relief of Shane Boyd.

Keeping Woodson healthy is mandatory, however. None of his backups have yet thrown a college pass.

Woodson will be tossing plenty of balls at his biggest target, 6-5, 234-pound Jacob Tammie. He switched from wide receiver to tight end in last season's finale at Tennessee and returns there this fall.

The Wildcats also bring back their top two receivers from last season to the wideout positions: Glenn Holt and Scott Mitchell.

Boyd was Kentucky's leading rusher last season, but UK does welcome back its top two running backs: Rafael Little and Tony Dixon. Once again it will be running back by committee for UK, but struggling for yards will be common behind an offensive line that has made marginal improvement since last season.

The defense switched from a 3-4 to a 4-3 in the spring more out of necessity than personal preference on coach Rick Brooks' part.

"I've played both," Brooks says. "I prefer the one that works."

The undersized Wildcats fared poorly in the 3-4, worst in the SEC in points allowed (31.0 per game) and rushing yards allowed (225.2). But even though UK needs fewer linebackers, it has fewer linebackers. Its top three middle linebacker prospects are gone, two transferring out and one forced to quit with a medical problem. Sophomore Joe Schuler is now the man in the middle.

This could be a critical season for Brooks, who is just 6-17 in two seasons with Kentucky. The schedule doesn't help as games with Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, South Carolina, Louisville and Auburn all look like losses. Kentucky has a chance at the other five.

# VANDERBILT

## COMMODORES

2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 SEC  
Official athletic Web site: www.vucommodores.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@WAKE FOREST	
S. 10	@ARKANSAS	
S. 17	Mississippi	23-26 (OT)
S. 24	Richmond	
O. 1	Middle Tennessee State	
O. 8	LSU	7-24
O. 15	Georgia	3-33
O. 22	@SOUTH CAROLINA	6-31
N. 5	@FLORIDA	17-34
N. 12	Kentucky	13-14
N. 19	@TENNESSEE	33-38

Head coach: Bobby Johnson,  
4th Year (6-29)  
Career Record: 66-65  
Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium  
Turf: Grass  
Capacity: 39,790

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13 Lettermen returning/lost: 45/21		
OFFENSE		
QB	6	Jay Cutler (6-4, 225, Sr.)
FB	44	David Whittington (6-1, 235, So.)
TB	21	Jeff Jennings (6-1, 225, So.)
LT	62	Ryan King (6-7, 315, Sr.)
LG	68	Josh Eames (6-5, 300, r-So.)
C	77	Trey Holloway (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RG	63	Nigel Seaman (6-5, 315, Sr.)
RT	72	Brian Stamper (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	84	Dustin Dunning (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	2	Erik Davis (6-2, 185, Sr.)
WR	82	Marlon White (6-4, 205, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	4	Herdley Harrison (6-3, 235, Sr.)
DT	94	Ray Brown (6-3, 295, Jr.)
DT	95	Ralph McKenzie (6-4, 310, Sr.)
DE	43	David Carter (6-5, 245, So.)
WLB	30	Moses Osemwegie (6-0, 220, Sr.)
MLB	47	Jonathan Goff (6-4, 240, r-So.)
SLB	40	Kevin Joyce (6-3, 215, Jr.)
CB	34	Sean Dixon (6-0, 185, Jr.)
CB	36	Andrew Pace (6-1, 210, Sr.)
FS	33	Reshard Langford (6-1, 205, So.)
SS	12	Kelechi Ohanaja (6-1, 210, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	22	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-10, 180, Fr.)
P	19	Kyle Keown (6-0, 200, r-So.)

The troubles typically start to mount for the Vanderbilt Commodores a few losses into the football season. This time, Vanderbilt's troubles started with a loss far worse than any football game.

Senior-to-be Kwane Doster, arguably the Commodores' best player, was shot to death sitting in a car the day after Christmas in his hometown of Tampa. His teammates spent the rest of the offseason trying to come to grips with his senseless death.

Out of heartbreak, Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson believes his players have found the best way to do just that.

"Obviously that was a terrible tragedy for our team to have to endure," Johnson says. "I was extremely proud of how they went about it. They are trying to remember the great things about Kwane, and are trying to figure out ways to honor him. One of the ways is to be a better football team."

Fine sentiments. Indeed many a team has fashioned a memorable season around a noble idea.

But this is Vanderbilt, which hasn't had a winning record since 1982. What would signify becoming a better team? Maybe just winning three games, which the Commodores have yet to do in three years under Johnson.

With Doster gone, most of the responsibility for moving the offense will fall to senior quarterback Jay Cutler and sophomore tailbacks Jeff Jennings and Cassen Jackson-Garrison. Cutler will have some talented hands to throw to with a deep receiver corps led by senior Erik Davis and junior Marlon White. The left side of the offensive line must retool after losing Justin Geisinger and Brian Kovalisky with Ryan King at tackle and Josh Eames at guard.

Defensively, defensive end Jovan Haye left early for the NFL and was replaced by senior Herdley Harrison, a converted linebacker. Andrew Pace also moved in the spring from strong safety to cornerback. Senior Moses Osemwegie, the SEC's second-leading tackler in 2004 with 9.4 stops per game, is back at weakside linebacker. On special teams, the Commodores missed five of their last 11 extra points last season, meaning freshman Bryant Hahnfeldt will get a chance to come in and kick right away.



BATON ROUGE, LA.

**2004 Record:** 9-3 overall, 6-2 SEC (lost to Iowa in the Capital One Bowl, 30-25)

**Stadium:** Tiger Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 91,600

**Official athletic Web site:** www.lsusports.net

**LSU**  
TIGERS



**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**

**PRESEASON RANK:**

8 10 8 13 9  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

**1**

**Head coach:** Les Miles, 1st Year (0-0) **Career Record:** 28-21

**Assistant coaches:** Jimbo Fisher (off. coord./QBs), Bo Pelini (def. coord.), Karl Dunbar (asst. head coach/def. line), Josh Henson (TEs/recruiting coord.), Doug Mallory (def. backs), Todd Monken (WRs/passing game coord.), Bradley Dale Peveto (special teams coord./LBs), Larry Porter (RBs), Stacy Searels (off. line)

## Lots of home cooking at Tiger Stadium could provide difference for LSU goals

**I**t was, at LSU, the kind of Christmas only the Grinch could love.

Christmas Day, the Tigers reported to Orlando for the Capital One Bowl as Nick Saban announced he was staying in Florida to become the new head coach of the Miami Dolphins. Then the Tigers sent Saban off by being burned for a game-ending, 56-yard touchdown pass by Iowa in a 30-25 defeat.

It was, for Les Miles, a holiday season with a happy ending. His Oklahoma State team was soundly thrashed by Ohio State 33-7 in the Alamo Bowl amid rampant speculation that he and Louisville's Bobby Petrino were the prime candidates to replace Saban.

In Miles' case, the speculation proved true. He was announced as LSU's head coach on Jan. 3, charged with not rebuilding a once-proud program but maintaining a legacy of success that has seen the Tigers win 40 games, a BCS national championship and two SEC titles the last four seasons.

Some coaches may have shied away from being the man to follow "The Man." But Miles, to his credit, embraces the challenge.

"I realized that when I looked at LSU from afar this university has everything," Miles says. "I want the opportunity to step alongside a great team, a great school and be part of extending a very competitive tradition. The ability to contend for every honor is available at LSU."

Miles struck the right note, because he inherits a team laden with talent, experience and enormous expectations for 2005.

Ten starters return on offense, the only loss being senior quarterback Marcus Randall.

The Tigers return two sophomore quarterbacks: JaMarcus Russell, who played in 11 of 12 games last year and started four times, and Matt Flynn, who was used sparingly. Russell completed 73 of 144 passes for 1,053 yards, nine touchdowns and four interceptions, Flynn just 4 of 10 for 99 yards and one score.

Russell engineered fourth-quarter comebacks that helped LSU beat Oregon State in the season opener and rally from a 24-12 fourth-quarter deficit to take a brief 25-24 lead over Iowa with 46 seconds remaining. Though Russell has an experience edge on Flynn and appeared to outplay him in the final spring scrimmage, Miles proclaimed the race too close to call going into August. Expect freshman Ryan Perrilloux, arguably the nation's top overall prospect, to also get a shot at the job when he reports for fall camp.

Whoever emerges as the quarterback will have an arsenal of weapons at his disposal.

The Tigers return four experienced tailbacks. Alley Broussard led the team with 867 yards and 10 rushing TDs. Joseph Addai is a threat to catch as well as run. Justin Vincent is trying to find the form that made him the SEC Championship Game and Sugar Bowl MVP in the 2003 season. And scatback

Shyrone Carey will also play a role.

The receiver corps can go five and possibly six deep if sophomore Amp Hill, limited by injuries the last two seasons, continues to display his spring form. LSU returns its top 13 receivers in all—including Addai, Vincent and tight ends David Jones and Keith Zinger—led by wideouts Craig Davis, Dwayne Bowe, Skyler Green, Early Doucet and Xavier Carter.

The same offensive line returns intact that started the last four games after center Ben Wilkerson went down with a knee injury on the final play of the Vanderbilt game. Andrew Whitworth is an All-American candidate at left tackle and is joined by center Rudy Niswanger, guards Brian Johnson and Terrell McGill and right tackle Nate Livings.

There were definitely more holes to fill on defense, as the Tigers lost All-Americans Marcus Spears at end and Corey Webster at cornerback.

Senior Melvin Oliver and junior Chase Pittman will each take an end. Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten return inside, one playing nose tackle, the other holding down defensive tackle in a slightly altered 4-3 alignment.

Cameron Vaughn takes over for Lionel Turner at middle linebacker, while Kenny Hollis and E.J. Kuale man the outside spots. Ali Highsmith is the prime backup.



LES MILES



ALLEY BROUSSARD, RB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	North Texas	
S. 10	Arizona State	
S. 24	Tennessee	
O. 1	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	51-0
O. 8	@VANDERBILT	24-7
O. 15	Florida	24-21
O. 22	Auburn	9-10
N. 5	Appalachian State	
N. 12	@ALABAMA	26-10
N. 19	@MISSISSIPPI	27-24
N. 26	Arkansas	43-14

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18

Lettermen returning/lost: 47/13

### OFFENSE

QB	4	JaMarcus Russell (6-5, 248, So.)
FB	18	Jacob Hester (6-0, 225, So.)
RB	22	Alley Broussard (6-0, 233, Jr.)
LT	76	Andrew Whitworth (6-7, 325, Sr.)
LG	68	Terrell McGill (6-4, 325, Sr.)
C	64	Rudy Niswanger (6-5, 293, Sr.)
RG	75	Brian Johnson (6-4, 310, Jr.)
RT	71	Nate Livings (6-5, 295, Sr.)
TE	82	David Jones (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR	5	Skyler Green (5-10, 195, Sr.)
WR	80	Dwayne Bowe (6-3, 213, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	94	Chase Pittman (6-4, 258, Jr.)
LT	98	Claude Wroten (6-3, 293, Sr.)
RT	95	Kyle Williams (6-2, 295, Sr.)
RE	90	Melvin Oliver (6-3, 274, Sr.)
WLB	56	Ken Hollis (6-0, 235, Sr.)
MLB	46	Cameron Vaughn (6-4, 237, Sr.)
SLB	51	E.J. Kuale (6-2, 225, Sr.)
LCB	8	Ronnie Prude (5-11, 182, Sr.)
RCB	14	Sammy Joseph (5-11, 179, Jr.)
FS	30	LaRon Landry (6-2, 187, Jr.)
SS	31	Jessie Daniels (5-11, 200, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	41	Chris Jackson (5-11, 165, Jr.)
P	41	Chris Jackson (5-11, 165, Jr.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- Ryan Perrilloux, QB**  
A dual threat in the Michael Vick mold.
- Ricky Jean-Francois, DE**  
Miami native had 15 sacks and 3 INTs as a senior.
- Al Jones, DE**  
Louisiana's second-best prospect after Perrilloux.
- Brandon LaFell, WR**  
Somewhat underrated, but impressive size, speed.
- R.J. Jackson, RB**  
Miles learns quickly how fertile Houston is for LSU.

SEC WEST



## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	LSU	OPP
SCORING	344	205
Points Per Game	28.7	17.1
FIRST DOWNS	250	158
Rushing	125	59
Passing	116	87
Penalty	9	12
RUSHING YARDAGE	2326	1197
Yards gained rushing	2721	1603
Yards lost rushing	395	406
Rushing Attempts	506	410
Average Per Rush	4.6	2.9
Average Per Game	193.8	99.8
TDs Rushing	20	7
PASSING YARDAGE	2421	1886
Att-Comp-Int	319-179-10	333-160-14
Average Per Pass	7.6	5.7
Average Per Catch	13.5	11.8
Average Per Game	201.8	157.2
TDs Passing	19	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	4747	3083
Total Plays	825	743
Average Per Play	5.8	4.1
Average Per Game	395.6	256.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-627	46-759
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	35-271	20-120
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-242	10-179
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.2	16.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.7	6.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	17.3	17.9
FUMBLES-LOST	22-15	21-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	72-547	76-550
Average Per Game	45.6	45.8
PUNTS-YARDS	56-2134	85-3441
Average Per Punt	38.1	40.5
Net punt average	36.0	37.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:24	28:36
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/167	56/176
3rd-Down Pct	43%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/7	5/12
4th-Down Pct	57%	42%
SACKS BY-YARDS	37-296	33-246
MISC YARDS	20	6
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	43	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	17-25	11-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-41	20-23
ATTENDANCE	638462	326403
Games/Avg Per Game	7/91209	4/81601
Neutral Site Games		

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
LSU	77	116	61	83	7	344
Opponent	64	64	41	30	6	205

2004  
INDIVIDUAL STATS  
OFFENSE

## PASSING

## Marcus Randall

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	139.69	162-102-6	63.0	1269	9	105.8

## JaMarcus Russell

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	127.19	144-73-4	50.7	1053	9	95.7

## Matt Flynn

GP	Effic.	Att-Comp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	156.16	10-4-0	40.0	99	1	9.9

## RUSHING

Player	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
Alley Broussard	12	142	867	6.1	10	72.2
Joseph Addai	12	101	680	6.7	3	56.7
Justin Vincent	12	76	322	4.2	2	26.8

## RECEIVING

RECEIVING	GP	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	AVG/G
Craig Davis	12	43	659	15.3	1	54.9
Dwayne Bowe	11	39	597	15.3	5	54.3
Joseph Addai	12	26	294	11.3	4	24.5

## DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
LaRon Landry	12	53	39	92
Lionel Turner	12	34	48	82
Jessie Daniels	12	31	33	64

## SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Marcus Spears	12	9.0	72
Claude Wroten	12	6.0	43
Kyle Williams	11	6.0	40

## INTERCEPTIONS

INTERCEPTIONS	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
LaRon Landry	4	51	12.8	0
Jessie Daniels	3	32	10.7	0
Corey Webster	2	46	23.0	0

Junior LaRon Landry, who led LSU in tackles his first two seasons, returns to the free safety spot next to strong safety Jessie Daniels. Ronnie Prude and junior transfer Sammy Joseph, a former starter at Colorado, go into the fall vying for one cornerback spot while Mario Stevenson and Chevis Jackson compete at the other.

On special teams, junior kicker Chris Jackson may be the most versatile athlete on the LSU campus. Not only did Jackson nail down the punting job in the spring—he averaged 40.0 yards per kick last season—he battled hard with classmate Ryan Gaudet for the placekicker job that was still undecided going into August. This as Jackson split time with the baseball team where he was the Tigers' leadoff hitter and starting third baseman.

Jackson made 11 of 15 field goals last year but just 15-of-20 on extra points. Gaudet was slightly more accurate, making six of eight field goals and 18 of 21 extra points.

Though Green was hampered by injuries last year he still led the Tigers with 22.6 yards per kick-off return and should be expected to better that average this fall with Xavier Carter and Joseph Addai backing him up. Green led the nation in punt returns in 2003 and should return to that role as well.

Miles kept just two of Saban's former assistants—offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher and offensive line coach Stacy Searels. Fisher turned down an offer of a position assistant's job with Saban's Dolphins to return with Miles for his sixth season at LSU, the longest tenure of any assistant on the staff.

Keeping Fisher wasn't Miles' best sell job. He convinced former LSU defensive lineman Karl Dunbar to leave

the Chicago Bears to return as the Tigers' assistant head coach/defensive line coach.

Four assistants followed Miles from Oklahoma State: Doug Mallory (defensive backs), Josh Henson (tight ends/recruiting), Larry Porter (running backs) and Todd Monken (receivers, passing game coordinator), plus administrative assistant Mack Butler.

Miles went through a string of defensive coordinators before luring Bo Pelini from Oklahoma. Pelini, who was interim head coach at Nebraska for the 2003 Alamo Bowl after Frank Solich was fired, was co-coordinator at Oklahoma with Brent Venables last season. Bradley Dale Peveto (linebackers/special teams) was defensive coordinator at Middle Tennessee State.

The SEC schedule maker couldn't have been kinder to the Tigers, whose toughest road challenge comes Nov. 12 at Alabama, a team LSU has beaten four of the last five years.

The Tigers went 7-0 at home last season for the first time since 1972, and it is at Tiger Stadium where they will likely state their case for SEC and national championships, with key dates against Arizona State Sept. 10, Tennessee Sept. 24, Florida Oct. 15 and Auburn Oct. 22.

The big concern to many LSU fans is the late addition of Division I-AA foe Appalachian State on Nov. 5, the worry being that such a foe will drag down the Tigers' strength of schedule and keep them out of the BCS title hunt much like 13-0 Auburn last season.

LSU has to win enough to have such worries. But if the offense clicks and the defense gels, LSU has a great chance to play in Atlanta on Dec. 3 and be smelling roses in January.


IN PROFILE ...  
LARON LANDRY

*Tigers' All-America safety is his own toughest critic*

As a free safety in the Southeastern Conference, LSU junior LaRon Landry is charged with being the last line of defense against some of the nation's top wideouts.

But before even stepping onto the field, Landry has to deal with his toughest and most critical opponent—himself.

"I need to be more consistent this year, not competing with myself," says the 6-2, 187-pound Landry, who was selected to the Freshman All-America Team in 2003. "If I find myself in that thought process, then I'll find myself in a bind."

Landry has quickly become one of the team's defensive stars, leading the Tigers in tackles his first two seasons at LSU—finishing with 80 his freshman year, then upping that total to 92 in 2004. The two-time All-SEC second-team selection also has seven interceptions and five sacks in two seasons. But Landry says he can't let statistics affect his play heading into his junior season.

"I know I was the leading tackler last year," he says. "But I can't play every game thinking that. I can't find myself thinking, 'Last year I would have made that play.' It's kind of hard, [because] you can always do better. Sometimes I find myself

trying to do the same things. But I just need to clear it out."

With LSU losing starting corners Travis Daniels and Corey Webster, Landry and strong safety Jesse Daniels will be thrust into leadership positions in the defensive backfield. It's a position Landry says he has no problem with, as long as the effort is there.

"As a secondary, I think we bring a lot to the table," he says. "Jesse and I have experience, so we feel comfortable playing together."

"[And] being a leader isn't going to change how I play. I still have to work hard like I did last year, [giving] 110 percent every day, learning the playbook and showcasing my talent."

Landry's playbook will be a little different this season with the addition of new coach Les Miles. The former Oklahoma State coach replaces Nick Saban, who relocated to the NFL to take the head-coaching position with the Miami Dolphins.

"The change really didn't bother me," Landry says. "A coach is a coach. Basically the playbook we have right now is similar ... not a really big difference. Coach Miles came in talking about how we need to come together as a team and work hard together, giving effort."

That should be no problem for Landry, who always seems to be involved in every defensive play. He says that's because he has "a nose for the ball."

—Matt McKenzie



AUBURN, ALA.

**2004 Record:** 13-0 overall, 8-0 SEC (beat Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl, 16-13)

**Stadium:** Jordan-Hare Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 87,451

**Official athletic Web site:** www.auburntigers.com

**AUBURN**  
TIGERS



COURTNEY TAYLOR, WR

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

9 7 9 8 13  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

**2**

**Head coach:** Tommy Tuberville, 7th Year (51-24) **Career Record:** 76-44

**Assistant coaches:** Al Borges (off. coord./QB), David Gibbs (def. coord./def. backs),

Hugh Nall (off. line), Eddie Gran (RBs/special teams), Greg Knox (WRs/recruiting coord.),

Steve Ensminger (TEs), Joe Whitt (LBs), Terry Price (def. ends), Don Dunn (def. line)

## Despite loss of four NFL first-rounders, all's not lost for Tuberville on Plains

**A** second national championship remains a frustratingly elusive goal for the Auburn Tigers, close enough for them to see yet too far away to touch.

Four SEC teams have won national championships since the conference went to divisional play in 1992. Two of them—Florida in 1996 and LSU in 2003—won titles despite having one loss.

No one besides Auburn has had two undefeated seasons in that time span, and yet the Tigers have nothing to show for it from a national perspective. The 1993 Tigers went 11-0 and finished No. 4 in the *Associated Press* poll while on probation. Last year's Tigers went 13-0 but had to watch as Southern California beat Oklahoma in the BCS title game at the Orange Bowl, the BCS formula having found Auburn unfit to compete.

No one expects Auburn to win the national championship this year, either. Not after what they lost.

April's NFL Draft had an overwhelming orange-and-blue tint to it. A record four Tigers went in the first round: running back Ronnie Brown No. 2 to Miami, running back Carnell "Cadillac" Williams with the fifth pick to Tampa Bay, cornerback Carlos Rogers with the ninth pick to Washington and quarterback Jason Campbell at No. 25 to Washington. Defensive tackle Jay Ratliff went in the seventh round to Dallas.

Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville must have shed a tear of pride after watching so many of his players get drafted so highly. The second tear was probably sadness.

"It's not ever good to lose four No. 1 draft picks," says Tuberville, who went from almost being fired to National Coach of the Year in one season. "It was fun to watch and to be around them, but now you have to start over."

Fifteen seniors return, the most in Tuberville's seven seasons at Auburn, with six starters each back on offense and defense.

Retooling the backfield with rookies, of course, will be the critical test.

Sophomore quarterback Brandon Cox emerged from spring practice as the heir apparent to Campbell. It wasn't much of a race, though. Cox is the only Auburn quarterback with any experience,

completing 22 of 34 passes for 357 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions in seven games.

To prepare him for the season, Tuberville allowed the defense to throw every scheme at Cox during spring practice. A smart, accurate passer, the only question is his arm strength.

If Cox can get the ball out there deep, he has the receivers to go and get it. Three of Auburn's top four receivers return (Brown ranked second last year). Junior Courtney Taylor led the way last season with 43 catches for 737 yards and six touchdowns. Seniors Devin Aromashodu and Ben Obomanu are also back. Obomanu caught 25 passes for 359 yards and a team-high seven TDs, while Aromashodu had 24 catches for 513 yards and four scores. Senior tight end Cooper Wallace is also back after pulling in 19 catches for 302 yards last season.

As one might expect, it will take more than just two tailbacks to fill the void left by Williams and Brown. Tre Smith, a junior who had just two carries for 36 yards last season, emerged as the No. 1 running back leaving spring drills. But it will definitely be running back by committee for Auburn as sophomore Carl Stewart (39 carries, 184 yards, 2 TDs) and junior Kenny Irons (no carries last year) also get their share. Senior Jake Slaughter returns at fullback.

Junior Joe Cope handled most of the reps at center as senior Steven Ross continued to recover from knee surgery he underwent last September. Meanwhile, juniors Ben Grubbs and Tim Duckworth finished the spring No. 1 at left and right guard, respectively. Senior Troy Reddick is an experienced hand at right tackle, while senior left tackle Marcus McNeill is one of the SEC's best.

The defensive line lost three of four starters but the one that returns, sophomore end Stanley McClover, is one of the league's best. As a freshman, McClover shared the team lead in tackles for loss (10) and sacks (7.5). Junior Marquies Gunn emerged from spring practice atop the depth chart at the other defensive end spot, sending sophomore Quentin Groves over to back up McClover. Senior T.J. Jackson returns to start at nose guard after missing much of the spring with a minor knee injury. Junior Wayne Dickens is the top defensive tackle, but is expected to rotate with sophomore Neil Brown and redshirt freshman Pat Sims.

The linebacker corps is obviously the strength of a tough defense. All three starters return though they were injured in the spring. Middle linebacker

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Georgia Tech	
S. 10	Mississippi State	43-14
S. 17	Ball State	
S. 24	Western Kentucky	
O. 1	South Carolina	
O. 15	@ARKANSAS	38-20
O. 22	@LSU	10-9
O. 29	Mississippi	35-14
N. 5	@KENTUCKY	42-10
N. 12	@GEORGIA	24-6
N. 19	Alabama	21-13

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13		
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18		
<b>OFFENSE</b>		
QB	12 Brandon Cox (6-2, 202, So.)	
FB	44 Jake Slaughter (6-2, 241, Sr.)	
TB	22 Tre Smith (5-10, 199, Jr.)	
LT	73 Marcus McNeill (6-9, 337, Sr.)	
LG	69 Ben Grubbs (6-3, 302, Jr.)	
C	74 Steven Ross (6-6, 292, Sr.)	
RG	76 Tim Duckworth (6-3, 326, Jr.)	
RT	66 Troy Reddick (6-5, 335, Sr.)	
TE	8 Cooper Wallace (6-4, 265, Sr.)	
WR	1 Devin Aromashodu (6-2, 202, Sr.)	
WR	86 Courtney Taylor (6-2, 204, Jr.)	
<b>DEFENSE</b>		
DE	48 Marquies Gunn (6-4, 238, Jr.)	
NG	58 T.J. Jackson (6-1, 305, Sr.)	
DT	96 Wayne Dickens (6-1, 296, Jr.)	
DE	75 Stanley McClover (6-3, 247, So.)	
WLB	31 Antarrious Williams (5-11, 206, Sr.)	
MLB	51 Travis Williams (6-1, 207, Sr.)	
SLB	40 Kevin Sears (6-4, 247, Jr.)	
CB	4 David Irons (6-1, 189, Sr.)	
CB	19 Montavis Pitts (6-3, 206, Jr.)	
FS	35 Will Herring (6-4, 215, Jr.)	
SS	3 Tony Bell (6-2, 218, So.)	
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>		
PK	37 John Vaughn (6-1, 201, Jr.)	
P	30 Kody Bliss (5-11, 177, Jr.)	

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1.	Tommy Trott, TE Alabama Player of the Year caught 14 TDs in '04.
2.	Gabe McKenzie, TE Light, talented TE who averaged 18 yards per catch.
3.	Jonathan Wilhite, DB Junior College All-America cornerback.
4.	Montez Billings, WR First-team all-state selection in Alabama.
5.	Prechae Rodriguez, WR Juco had 39 catches plus 236 yards in kick returns.

SEC WEST





## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	AUBURN	OPP
SCORING	417	147
Points Per Game	32.1	32.1
FIRST DOWNS	271	187
Rushing	134	77
Passing	124	93
Penalty	13	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	2383	1354
Yards gained rushing	2731	1698
Yards lost rushing	348	344
Rushing Attempts	553	413
Average Per Rush	4.3	3.3
Average Per Game	183.3	104.2
TDs Rushing	27	4
PASSING YARDAGE	3086	2255
Att-Comp-Int	308-211-9	367-200-16
Average Per Pass	10.0	6.1
Average Per Catch	14.6	11.3
Average Per Game	237.4	173.5
TDs Passing	25	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5469	3609
Total Plays	861	780
Average Per Play	6.4	4.6
Average Per Game	420.7	277.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	15-332	33-692
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-429	23-147
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-118	9-118
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	22.1	21.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.9	6.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	7.4	13.1
FUMBLES-LOST	17-12	15-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	80-686	95-750
Average Per Game	52.8	57.7
PUNTS-YARDS	49-2008	83-3190
Average Per Punt	41.0	38.4
Net punt average	38.0	33.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:51	28:09
3RD-DOWN CONV.	72/157	48/174
3rd-Down Pct	46%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/15	10/21
4th-Down Pct	47%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	36-221	18-138
MISC YARDS	20	2
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	54	19
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-15	6-10
PAT-ATTEMPTS	51-52	15-16
ATTENDANCE	581597	303454
Games/Avg Per Game	7/83085	4/75864
Neutral Site Games		2/76120

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Auburn	129	95	116	77	—	417
Opponent	19	20	38	70	—	147

2004  
INDIVIDUAL STATS  
OFFENSE

## PASSING

Jason Campbell							
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G	
13	172.89	270-188-7	69.6	2700	20	207.7	
Brandon Cox							
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G	
7	179.96	34-22-2	64.7	357	4	51.0	

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
Carnell Williams	13	239	1165	4.9	12	89.6
Ronnie Brown	12	153	913	6.0	8	76.1
Carl Stewart	13	39	184	4.7	2	14.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Courtney Taylor	13	43	737	17.1	6	56.7
Ronnie Brown	12	34	313	9.2	1	26.1
Ben Obomanu	13	25	359	14.4	7	27.6

## DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Asst.	Total
Travis Williams	13	58	22	80
Will Herring	13	44	17	61
Junior Rosegreen	13	40	17	57

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Quentin Groves	13	7.5	37
Stanley McClover	13	7.5	44
Antarrious Williams	10	3.0	21

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Junior Rosegreen	6	48	8.0	0
Will Herring	3	-2	-0.7	0
Carlos Rogers	2	53	26.5	1

Travis Williams, who led Auburn with 80 stops in 2004, had a high-ankle sprain. Strongside linebacker Kevin Sears broke his thumb. And weakside 'backer Antarrious Williams was still rehabbing the wrist he broke late last season.

Junior Will Herring returns at free safety but could be pushed aside by sophomore Eric Brock. Junior Montavis Pitts returns at one corner, while senior David Irons, Kenny's brother, looks like Rogers' successor at the other. Sophomore Tony Bell played both safeties but is No. 1 at strong going into fall camp.

Both kickers, John Vaughn and Kody Bliss, return after strong sophomore campaigns. Vaughn was 12-of-15 on field goal chances and 51 of 52 extra points, while Bliss averaged 42.3 yards per punt and didn't have any of his 47 attempts blocked.

As you might expect coming off an unbeaten season, there was little change in Auburn's coaching staff. The one move was a significant one, however, as defensive coordinator Gene Chizik, the Broyles Award winner as the nation's top assistant, made a lateral move to Texas. He was replaced by David Gibbs, who spent the last four seasons coaching defensive backs for the Denver Broncos. Gibbs graduated from Auburn High School and his father, Alex, was Auburn's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach from 1979-81.

IN PROFILE ...  
STANLEY McCLOVER

McClover set to lead encore  
for stingy Auburn defense

If Auburn's spring game is any indication, it should be another strong year for the Tigers' defense, and it likely will start with defensive end Stanley McClover.

McClover had four sacks in Auburn's annual "A-Day" spring intrasquad game, putting the early buzz on the 6-3, 247-pound redshirt sophomore as the leader of the Tigers' defense.

"That was just a taste of what we can do," said McClover after the game, where he was named defensive MVP for the second straight year. "I think we've got a lot of potential to be a great defense."

Potential has always followed McClover. As a prep star at Dillard High in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., he recorded 102 tackles and 22 sacks as a senior. Tigers coach Tommy Tuberville first saw promise in him when McClover came to Auburn's high school camp—so much, in fact, that at times McClover would be held out of drills because his skills were superior to opposing prep offensive linemen.

McClover was involved in a heated recruiting battle, as he originally verbally committed to Ohio State, then recanted and signed a letter-of-intent with the Tigers. He flashed his abilities almost immediately, nabbing defensive MVP honors as a freshman in his first "A-Day" spring game. But for all the hype surrounding McClover, he was unable to show what he could do in

Like offensive coordinator Al Borges last season, Gibbs came in and changed terminology but basically kept the same 4-3 scheme. Auburn will be expected to take more chances and blitz more often, though, and employ more press coverages.

"I was very interested in getting someone who runs the 4-3 package like we run from the pro ranks to give us a better idea about situation football," Tuberville says. "I thought if there was anything we lacked defensively this past year was having a match-up defense in certain games. David has a lot of experience in that. Hopefully he can take us to another level."

The schedule sets up perfectly for an Auburn team trying to find a new identity. The Tigers have an excellent chance to start 5-0 with five straight home games against Georgia Tech, Mississippi State, Ball State, Western Kentucky and South Carolina before venturing on the SEC road to Arkansas and LSU.

The LSU game on Oct. 22 could be the turning point of Auburn's season. Four of the last five years the winner of that game has gone on to represent the Western Division in the SEC Championship Game, Auburn in 2000 and 2004, LSU in 2001 and 2003. Still, the season concludes with another tough one-two finish with a Nov. 12 road trip to Georgia and a Nov. 19 home finale with Alabama.



real game action, having to sit out due to his partial-qualifier status under NCAA rules.

After getting his academics together, McClover quickly shot up the depth chart last year, starting Auburn's 2004 season opener against Louisiana-Monroe. He officially only started one more game (LSU), but was steadily involved in Auburn's stingy defense, tying for the team lead in both sacks (7.5) and tackles for loss (10).

McClover's play was a big reason Auburn led the nation in scoring defense, as the Tigers allowed just 11.2 points a game. Behind the Tigers' D, which also ranked fifth in the nation for total defense (269.5 yards a game), the team finished with a school-best record of 13-0 and a Sugar Bowl victory over Virginia Tech.

Defense is something Auburn may have to rely on early in 2005, with the graduation of quarterback Jason Campbell and the star running back tandem of Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams. With McClover now settled in a starting role, he says the unit is ready for the challenge.

"The defense is greatly anticipating this season," McClover said after Auburn's spring game. "We want to show we can run and play with anyone in the nation. I don't feel any extra pressure because the offense is so young. The defense was in the same situation last year with all the people graduating the year before."

"We stepped up as a defense, and the offense will have to do the same."

—Matt McKenzie



# ALABAMA

## CRIMSON TIDE



TUSCALOOSA, ALA.

**2004 Record:** 6-6 overall, 3-5 SEC (lost to Minnesota in the Music City Bowl, 20-16)

**Stadium:** Bryant-Denny Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 83,818

**Official athletic Web site:** www.rolltide.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

3



**Head coach:** Mike Shula, 3rd (10-15) **Career Record:** 10-15

**Assistant coaches:** Joe Kines (def. coord./LBs), Dave Rader (off. coord./QB), Chris Ball (secondary), Bob Connelly (off. line), Charlie Harbison (WRs), Paul Randolph (def. ends), Dave Ungerer (special teams/TEs), Sparky Woods (RBs), Buddy Wyatt (def. line)



## Fragile Tide—long on talent, short on numbers—must walk a fine line this season to contend

**Y**ou can't say Mike Shula hasn't learned his lesson.

In his first two years as coach at Alabama, the former Crimson Tide quarterback was reduced both times to fielding his third-string quarterback. This spring, he had no interest in gambling with senior Brodie Croyle's health.

The result: Croyle didn't take a single snap all spring.

"He could have gone through all the spring drills," Shula says, "but I didn't want to take a chance on him getting hit. We don't need Brodie 100 percent for spring. We need him 100 percent for fall practice."

A cynic would say Shula, 10-15 his first two seasons, was being too cautious with Croyle, who completed just 44 of 66 passes for 534 yards and six touchdowns in three games last season. But a realist might say the coach had enough other injuries to worry about.

Tailback Ken Darby, who rushed for 1,062 yards and eight TDs despite breaking his pelvis Nov. 13 at LSU, also didn't practice all spring. He tried to play in Bama's 20-16 loss to Minnesota in the Music City Bowl and ended up requiring hernia surgery. The only scholarship tailback to finish the spring was sophomore Aaron Johns. Fullback Tim Castille, who was also injured last season, also sat out the spring. His backup, Le'Ron McClain, practiced but was recovering from an ankle injury.

Alabama's top six receivers return, led by starting wideouts Tyrone Prothro (25 catches, 347 yards) and Matt Caddell (17, 331). Keith Brown and D.J. Hall (17 catches each, 295 and 186 yards, respectively, each a TD) will help the Tide go four deep.

The offensive line is a question mark, where three starters had to be replaced. Of particular concern were the guard positions, where redshirt freshman right guard B.J. Stabler missed the spring recovering from offseason surgery. Antoine Caldwell, another redshirt freshman, will probably start at left.



TYRONE PROTHRO, WR

Senior J.B. Closner starts at center, while junior Kyle Tatum is at right tackle. Freshman redshirt Chris Capps had back problems in the spring and was trying to hold onto the job at left tackle.

Alabama ranked first or second in the SEC in scoring, passing and total defense last season, and defense should again be a strength.

Senior Rudy Griffin and junior

Jeremy Clark return to man the defensive tackle positions, though both were hurt during the spring. Wallace Gilberry, an emerging force at left end, had 6.5 sacks among 13 tackles for loss as a freshman, both team highs. Junior Chris Harris is the starter at right end going into the fall but should expect competition from the likes of senior Mark Anderson.

The linebacker corps should again be strong. Senior DeMeco Ryans, the top returning tackler with 78 stops last year, returns at the strongside spot next to middle linebacker Freddie Roach (57 tackles, nine for loss). Junior Juwan Simpson replaces Cornelius Wortham at weakside linebacker. Simpson changed his last name from Garth after the Auburn game, deciding to take the surname of his late father.

The secondary returns intact with seniors Anthony Madison, Roman Harper and Charlie Peprah at right corner, free and strong safety, respectively. Junior Ramzee Robinson returns at left corner. However, sophomore Simeon Castille had an eye-popping spring after playing nickel back last season. It won't be a surprise if he displaces one of the four starters this fall.

Kicking, typically an Alabama strong point, was an unsettling unknown commodity leaving spring practice. Sophomore Jamie Christensen and freshman C.J. Rhody were battling to replace placekicker Brian Bostick.

At punter, senior Jeremy Schatz is the leader to replace Bo Freeland, but if a walk-on walks into fall practice with a strong leg, he could easily win the job.



KEN DARBY, TB

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Middle Tennessee State	
S. 10	Southern Miss	27-3
S. 17	@SOUTH CAROLINA	3-20
S. 24	Arkansas	10-27
O. 1	Florida	
O. 15	@MISSISSIPPI	28-7
O. 22	Tennessee	13-17
O. 29	Utah State	48-17
N. 5	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	30-14
N. 12	LSU	10-26
N. 19	@AUBURN	13-21

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	12 Brodie Croyle (6-3, 205, Sr.)
FB	19 Tim Castille (5-11, 230, Jr.)
TB	34 Ken Darby (5-11, 205, Jr.)
LT	72 Chris Capps (6-5, 293, So.)
LG	59 Antoine Caldwell (6-3, 281, Fr.)
C	74 J.B. Closner (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RG	61 B.J. Stabler (6-4, 292, r-Fr.)
RT	58 Kyle Tatum (6-7, 298, Jr.)
TE	89 Nick Walker (6-5, 238, Fr.)
WR	11 Matt Caddell (6-0, 181, So.)
WR	4 Tyrone Prothro (5-8, 176, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	92 Wallace Gilberry (6-2, 251, So.)
DT	99 Jeremy Clark (6-3, 296, Jr.)
DT	90 Rudy Griffin (6-0, 286, Sr.)
RE	47 Mark Anderson (6-5, 253, Sr.)
WLB	42 Juwan Simpson (6-2, 220, Jr.)
MLB	8 Freddie Roach (6-2, 239, Sr.)
SLB	35 DeMeco Ryans (6-2, 232, Sr.)
LCB	17 Ramzee Robinson (5-10, 192, Jr.)
RCB	9 Anthony Madison (5-9, 180, Sr.)
FS	41 Roman Harper (6-1, 197, Sr.)
SS	26 Charlie Peprah (5-11, 193, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	86 Jamie Christensen (6-0, 170, So.)
P	25 Jeremy Schatz (5-7, 151, Jr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Chris Keys, DB**  
One of the nation's top incoming safeties (7 INTs).
- Mike Ford, RB**  
Class 5A Player of the Year led Fla. in rush yards.
- Roy Upchurch, RB**  
Floridian rushed for 2,548 yards, 27 TDs last year.
- Lorenzo Washington, DL**  
Hargrave Military product one of Ga.'s best in '03.
- Brandon Fanney, DL**  
Hargrave Military teammate of Washington's.

SEC WEST





# ARKANSAS

## RAZORBACKS

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 SEC

Stadium: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium

Turf: Grass

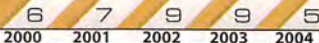
Capacity: 72,000

Official athletic Web site: www.hogwired.com

PRESEASON RANK:

4

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Houston Nutt, 8th Year (53-33) Career Record: 89-55

Assistant coaches: Bobby Allen (secondary), Clifton Ealy (TEs), Mike Markuson (off. line/running game coord.), Danny Nutt (RBs), Reggie Herring (def. coord./LBs), Tracy Rocker (def. line), Chris Vaughn (safeties/recruiting coord.), James Shibest (WRs/specialists), Roy Wittke (QB's/passing game coord.)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	SMS	
S. 10	Vanderbilt	
S. 17	@USC	
S. 24	@ALABAMA	27-10
O. 8	Louisiana-Monroe	49-20
O. 15	Auburn	20-38
O. 22	@GEORGIA	14-20
N. 5	South Carolina	32-35
N. 12	@MISSISSIPPI	35-3
N. 19	Mississippi State	24-21
N. 26	@LSU	14-43

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/17

#### OFFENSE

QB	18 Robert Johnson (6-2, 212, Sr.)
FB	47 Brandon Kennedy (5-11, 238, Sr.)
TB	26 De'Arrius Howard (6-0, 228, Sr.)
LT	66 Tony Ugoh (6-5, 303, Sr.)
LG	74 Stephen Parker (6-4, 308, Jr.)
C	70 Kyle Roper (6-3, 291, Sr.)
RG	61 Robert Felton (6-4, 322, So.)
RT	69 Zac Tubbs (6-6, 358, Sr.)
TE	80 Mason Templeton (6-7, 258, So.)
FL	16 Cedric Washington (6-0, 191, Jr.)
SE	85 Marcus Monk (6-6, 224, So.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	23 Desmond Sims (6-3, 228, Jr.)
LT	87 Ernest Mitchell (6-2, 297, r-Fr.)
RT	55 Marcus Harrison (6-3, 300, So.)
RE	83 Anthony Brown (6-6, 223, r-Jr.)
WLB	24 Sam Olajabutu (5-9, 227, Sr.)
MLB	30 Weston Dacus (6-2, 235, So.)
SLB	27 Pierre Brown (6-0, 227, Sr.)
LCB	16 Mattered Richardson (6-0, 189, So.)
RCB	4 Darius Vinnett (5-9, 170, Sr.)
FS	6 Randy Kelly (6-0, 188, Jr.)
SS	31 Vickiel Vaughn (6-0, 204, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	55 Chris Balseiro (6-1, 215, Sr.)
P	40 Jeremy Davis (5-9, 200, So.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Darren McFadden, RB**  
The only Parade All-American from Arkansas.
2. **Marcus Shavers, DE**  
One of the nation's best DEs; 9 sacks as a senior.
3. **Felix Jones, RB**  
Tulsa area Player of the Year had 41 TDs in '04.
4. **Tyrell Graham, LB**  
Greater Houston Class 4A Defensive MVP.
5. **Reggie Fish, ATH**  
Could help Arkansas immediately in return game.

WESLEY HITT / ICON SIMI

## Finding a dependable replacement for Matt Jones is first chore for Nutt in quest to get Hogs back bowling

**Y**ou didn't have to be a football expert like Chris Mortensen to know that the Arkansas Razorback team his son chose to play quarterback for last season would have a difficult 2004.

Arkansas returned just six starters from its 2003 team. Youth served, sometimes strongly, sometimes struggling. The end result was a 5-6 record, snapping a string of six straight bowl appearances under coach Houston Nutt.

To the Razorbacks' credit, Arkansas was in the hunt for a winning record and bowl trip right up until its 43-14 season-ending loss to LSU. The defeat also ended an undefeated 17-0 streak for the Razorbacks in Little Rock under Nutt.

Clearly, the end of the 2004 season was a point of demarcation for Arkansas. The Razorbacks took it as a sign that the work had to begin quickly to bring back their accustomed winning ways in 2005.

"I felt we had a sense of urgency even in that first week we lifted weights," Nutt says. "Usually we give them a week off after LSU, but we didn't this time. We went right back to work. It was a very different Christmas for us and everybody. It was one we don't want to get used to."



ROBERT JOHNSON, QB

A winning season may not be just a whim for Nutt, but a necessity. Despite all of his past success, Nutt has irritated many Arkansas folks by flirting with job openings the last two years at Nebraska and LSU. Nutt pulled out of consideration both times, but may need another job if he doesn't win this year.

If Nutt is to get Arkansas to go back bowling this year, he'll have to do it with a new quarterback.

Sophomore Robert Johnson was named the starter at the end of spring practice, replacing first-round draft pick Matt Jones. Redshirt freshman Alex Mortensen, son of ESPN NFL guru Chris Mortensen and 23-year-old freshman Cole Barthel—he spent the last four years in the Atlanta Braves organization—will play backup. Of course, Chris would certainly love to see Alex play—after all, he moved to northwest Arkansas from Atlanta to more closely follow his son's playing career.

The quarterback position is surrounded with a potentially potent collection of talent. There is a solid rotation of tailbacks with seniors Kyle Dickerson, De'Arrius Howard and sophomore Peyton Hillis and a deep fleet of receivers including sophomore Marcus Monk and juniors Chris Baker and Cedric Washington. Monk led Arkansas as a freshman with 37 catches for 569 yards and a team-high six touchdowns.

Senior center Kyle Roper leads an offensive line that allowed just 14 sacks last season, the fewest in the SEC.

The Razorback defenders learned a new 4-3 scheme under first-year defensive coordinator Reggie Herring, with a flurry of position changes designed to improve overall team speed.

In his Arkansas career, junior Desmond Sims has moved from safety to linebacker and now has bulked up to play a fast, light defensive end at 6-3, 228 pounds. He showed he was up to the task with three sacks in the spring game.

Sophomore Marcus Harrison moved from end to tackle, while redshirt freshman Desmond Williams shifted from free safety to strongside linebacker. Senior Vickel Vaughn, who had 66 tackles and two interceptions in 2004, made a late-season move from free to strong safety and is expected to stay at the latter position this fall.

Senior Chris Balseiro is back at placekicker, while Jeremy Davis and Jacob Skinner return to battle for punting duties.



# MISSISSIPPI STATE

## BULLDOGS

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 SEC

Official athletic Web site: www.mstateathletics.com



When the pain in his leg became too great to let him sleep at night, Mississippi State coach Sylvester Croom finally relented and agreed to a partial knee replacement in the offseason.

There is no procedure to take away the pain of what could be a long, difficult season in Starkville.

Even with their 3-8 record last season, their first under Croom, the bulldogs surpassed some expectations, especially with their 38-31 upset of Florida.

But since the end of last season, a steady stream of players has been leaving the team. Left to choose between Croom's way and the highway, 15 chose the latter. Two other players had to quit for medical reasons. Quality depth at many positions is practically nonexistent.

"I expected that," Croom says of the player attrition. "Most of them have been disciplinary reasons or I thought our philosophy wasn't what they wanted to do. These guys weren't recruited to be part of this philosophy. They chose not to remain and I respect that. We will just move on."

Quarterback Omarr Conner has grown into his position after throwing for 1,224 yards and six touchdowns last season. The problem is none of his backups have even attempted a pass in a live game.

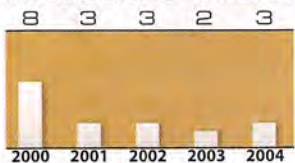
Tailback Jerious Norwood is one of the SEC's best, having rushed for 1,050 yards and seven TDs last season.

He will struggle to gain yards, however, behind a line that lost three starters and was riddled by injuries during the spring to right tackle James Cochran, backup left guard Johnny Wadley and reserve right tackle James Redmond. Center Chris McNeil, a senior, is the best of the bunch.

The defense was weakened by the defection of safety Darren Williams, but will still be the relative strength of this team. Defensive lineman Michael Heard had a strong spring, as did junior Deljuan Robinson, who overcame open heart surgery coming out of high school and his mother's death in a car wreck last year to earn a starting spot.

Several freshmen could quickly fill starting roles, such as Derek Pegues at right cornerback opposite senior Kevin Dockery.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Murray State	
S. 10	@AUBURN	14-43
S. 17	@TULANE	28-7
S. 24	Georgia	
O. 1	LSU	0-51
O. 8	@FLORIDA	38-31
O. 22	Houston	
O. 29	@KENTUCKY	22-7
N. 5	Alabama	14-30
N. 19	@ARKANSAS	21-24
N. 26	Mississippi	3-20

Head coach: Sylvester Croom,  
2nd Year (3-8)

Career Record: 3-8

Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 55,082

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/20

#### OFFENSE

QB	14 Omarr Conner (6-0, 215, Jr.)
FB	48 Desmond Sherrod (6-3, 236, So.)
HB	12 Jerious Norwood (6-0, 202, Sr.)
LT	71 James Redmond (6-7, 305, Jr.)
LG	55 Brian Anderson (6-5, 303, Jr.)
C	50 Chris McNeil (6-3, 294, Sr.)
RG	53 Anthony Strauder (6-4, 300, r-Fr.)
RT	66 James Cochran (6-5, 293, Jr.)
TE	82 Jason Husband (6-2, 208, So.)
WR	83 Tee Milons (5-9, 165, Sr.)
WR	81 Will Prosser (6-3, 205, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	54 Titus Brown (6-3, 234, So.)
NT	94 Andrew Powell (6-2, 304, Jr.)
T	98 Deljuan Robinson (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RE	58 Michael Heard (6-2, 256, Jr.)
WLB	29 Clarence McDougall (6-1, 213, Sr.)
MLB	2 Quinton Culberson (6-0, 228, Jr.)
SLB	5 Gabe O'Neal (6-2, 219, So.)
LCB	30 Kevin Dockery (5-10, 185, Sr.)
RCB	23 David Heard (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FS	34 Jeramie Johnson (6-0, 207, Jr.)
SS	6 Mario Bobo (6-1, 170, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	46 Keith Andrews (6-0, 200, Jr.)
P	38 Brooks Crabtree (5-10, 174, Sr.)

# MISSISSIPPI

## REBELS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 SEC

Official athletic Web site: www.olemissports.com

When Ole Miss and coach David Cutcliffe decided to part ways after seven mostly successful seasons—capped by last year's shocking slip to 4-7, the Rebels' fewest wins since 1994—the school decided to do a 180.

It hired the anti-Cutcliffe, Ed Orgeron, an adrenaline-infused Cajun from south Louisiana by way of Southern California. Where, by the way, he helped the Trojans to back-to-back national championships as recruiting coordinator and defensive line coach.

The day he was introduced in Oxford, Orgeron says he awoke and told his wife, Kelly, he felt like he was home. He soon started sounding like a local, saying what the locals wanted to hear.

"You need me to go speak somewhere? I will do it. You want to have a pep rally in The Grove this afternoon? Let's go do it," Orgeron says.

"All of these things lead to one main goal—building a top-of-the-line program so we can go win championships."

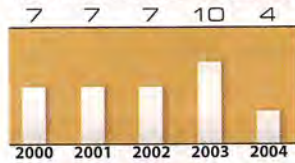
Despite his passion, there were problems immediately for Orgeron. Linebackers coach Charlie Camp resigned Jan. 29, a day after being arrested for driving under the influence. In March, defensive line coach Joe Cullen was dismissed after being arrested for public drunkenness.

On the practice field the news was mostly good. Senior Micheal Spurlock held off junior Ethan Flatt (one of five returning offensive starters) and sophomore Robert Lane for the starting quarterback job, but senior Vashon Pearson (807 yards rushing, 3 TDs in 2004) wasn't as successful keeping the ball out of junior Jamal Pittman's hands. All will have to operate behind a rather suspect offensive line.

Seven starters return on defense, among them senior Kelvin Robinson, who moved from strong safety to weakside linebacker. Former walk-on Dontae Reed beat out Gary Pack for an outside linebacker spot, while senior McKinley Boykin returns to defensive tackle after an offseason filled with off-the-field problems and arthroscopic knee surgery.

Despite all the upheaval, the Rebels have a schedule conducive to six or seven wins and a bowl berth, if not their first SEC title since 1963. Then we'll really see how enthusiastic Orgeron can be.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 5	@MEMPHIS	13-20
S. 17	@VANDERBILT	26-23 (OT)
S. 24	Wyoming	32-37
O. 1	@TENNESSEE	17-21
O. 8	Citadel	
O. 15	Alabama	7-28
O. 22	Kentucky	
O. 29	@AUBURN	14-35
N. 12	Arkansas	3-35
N. 19	LSU	24-27
N. 26	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	20-3

Head coach: Ed Orgeron,  
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 60,580

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/29

#### OFFENSE

QB	16 Micheal Spurlock (5-11, 200, Sr.)
FB	48 Jason Cook (6-0, 230, r-Fr.)
RB	21 Jamal Pittman (6-2, 240, Jr.)
LT	75 Bobby Harris (6-4, 310, Sr.)
LG	50 Darryl Harris (6-3, 285, So.)
C	65 Tony Bonds (6-4, 308, Sr.)
RG	60 Thomas Eckers (6-2, 290, So.)
RT	70 Tre Stallings (6-4, 317, Sr.)
TE	88 Lawrence Lilly (6-4, 275, Jr.)
SE	87 Mario Hill (6-1, 195, Sr.)
FL	11 Mike Espy (6-0, 195, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	77 Jayme Mitchell (6-6, 285, Sr.)
NT	72 Michael Bozeman (6-2, 290, Sr.)
DT	68 McKinley Boykin (6-2, 285, Sr.)
DE	95 Chris Bowers (6-2, 231, r-Fr.)
WLB	38 Kelvin Robinson (6-1, 220, Sr.)
MLB	49 Patrick Willis (6-2, 230, Jr.)
SLB	46 Dontae Reed (6-2, 200, So.)
LCB	9 Travis Johnson (6-1, 191, Sr.)
RCB	3 Trumaine McBride (5-10, 180, Jr.)
FS	20 Charles Clark (6-0, 195, Jr.)
SS	13 Jamarca Sanford (5-10, 200, r-Fr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	17 Will Moseley (6-2, 189, r-Jr.)
P	41 Hunter Bray (6-1, 200, Jr.)





## Games to watch:

- >> **Southern California at Hawaii**, Sept. 3  
All eyes will be focused on the two-time defending national champions, who open in Honolulu.
- >> **Boise State at Georgia**, Sept. 3  
The Broncos look to prove they are a Top 10 team.
- >> **San Jose State at Illinois**, Sept. 10  
New coach Dick Tomey, who ranks eighth in victories among Division I-A coaches, faces his first real test.

official conference website:  
[www.wacsports.com](http://www.wacsports.com)

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

### Offense

QB	Jared Zabransky, Jr., Boise St.
RB	Bryson Sumlin, Sr., Fresno St.
RB	Lee Marks, Sr., Boise State
OL	Daryn Colledge, Sr., Boise State
OL	Aaron Lips, Sr., Louisiana Tech
OL	Samson Satele, Jr., Hawaii
OL	Kyle Young, Jr., Fresno State
OL	Nick Cole, Sr., New Mexico St.
WR	Rufus Skillern, Sr., San Jose St.
WR	Nichiren Flowers, Sr., Nevada
TE	Luke Smith-Anderson, Idaho
PK	Mike Lingua, Jr., Fresno State

### Defense

DL	Andrew Browning, Jr., Boise St.
DL	Garret McIntyre, Sr., Fresno St.
DL	Melilla Purcell, Sr., Hawaii
LB	Jimmy Cottrell, Sr., New Mexico St.
LB	Cole Snyder, Sr., Idaho
LB	Byron Santiago, Sr., Louisiana Tech
LB	Korey Hall, Jr., Boise State
DB	Josh Powell, Jr., San Jose State
DB	Richard Marshall, Jr., Fresno St.
DB	Leonard Peters, Sr., Hawaii
DB	Marcus McCauley, Jr., Fresno St.
P	Kyle Stringer, Jr., Boise State

## Broncos poised to continue dominance with high-octane WAC attack on offense

By Mark Gomez  
San Jose Mercury News

Although there is a new look to the WAC with the additions of Utah State, New Mexico State and Idaho, the landscape doesn't figure to change much at the top.

Boise State, winners of 26 consecutive WAC games and three conference titles in a row, appears poised to continue its recent run of dominance.

It starts with Coach Dan Hawkins, who made several Broncos fans happy in December by signing a five-year contract extension through Jan. 31, 2010. Boise State ended last season ranked No. 12 in the AP poll and 13th in the coaches' poll. In the BCS rankings, Boise State was left on the outside looking in despite going 11-0 during the regular season.

To make that next step, Boise State is scheduling like a nationally-ranked team, opening at Georgia, Oregon State and Bowling Green, all of which played in a bowl game last season. The rest of the WAC could help Boise State's rise in the BCS rankings with a strong non-conference schedule that includes USC (twice), Georgia, Florida, Michigan State, Colorado, Wisconsin, Washington, Cal and Utah.

One team seems to have a realistic chance of ending Boise State's reign. Fresno State returns the majority of last year's squad that ended on a six-game winning streak, including a victory over nationally-ranked Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl. But Fresno State hasn't won a conference championship since 1999, playing second fiddle to Boise State and Hawaii during that span. The Bulldogs are 3-9 against those teams in the last five years.

With the departure of a resurrected Texas El-Paso, Tulsa, Southern Methodist and Rice to Conference USA, things drop off considerably from here. The three teams joining the conference, Utah State, Idaho and New Mexico State, were a combined 11-23 last season. New Mexico State and Idaho got a taste of life in the WAC last season with games against Boise

State, Hawaii and Texas El-Paso, and the results don't bode well for these freshmen teams: they lost by a combined 134 points.

Nevada and Louisiana Tech could benefit with a watered-down conference schedule and make a run at a bowl bid. Likewise to San Jose State, a team that went 2-9 last season but made a positive coaching change in the offseason with the hiring of Dick Tomey. SJSU also took Boise State into double overtime, proof it has athletes to compete in the WAC. Those three teams will likely battle for third place.

Unlike last season, however, a third-place finish doesn't automatically mean a bowl bid. The Silicon Valley Classic was decertified by the NCAA in April, leaving the WAC associations with just two bowl games. You can basically pencil in Boise State and Fresno State to receive bowl bids, but if both measure up to the high expectations, one could be playing on New Year's Day.

There are also some new faces roaming the sidelines this season, two veteran coaches and one newcomer. San Jose State, Utah State and New Mexico State all made coaching changes in the offseason, the most notable of whom is Tomey, who ranks eighth in career victories among active Division I-A coaches. Hal Mumme, former head coach at Kentucky, takes over at New Mexico State and Brent Guy is making his head coaching debut with Utah State.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	John Broussard, San Jose State
Best hands	Nichiren Flowers, WR, Nevada
Best passing QB	Paul Pinegar, Fresno State
Best running QB	Jared Zabransky, Boise State
Most elusive RB	Bryson Sumlin, Fresno State
Best instincts	Garret McIntyre, DL, Fresno State
Best under pressure	Paul Pinegar, QB, Fresno State
Top NFL prospect	Daryn Colledge, DL, Boise State
Top impact freshman	Jeremy Childs, WR, Boise State
Hardest hitter	Korey Hall, LB, Boise State
Biggest underachiever	Mike Barrow, K, Idaho

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Dan Hawkins, Boise State
Best recruiter	Pat Hill, Fresno State
Coach on the spot	Jack Bicknell, Louisiana Tech

### Don't be surprised if ...

Fresno State closes the gap with Boise State. The Bulldogs ended the season with a six-game winning streak, including a win over nationally ranked Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl, averaging 52.8 points per game. With 17 starters returning, the Bulldogs could end Boise State's streak of three consecutive WAC titles.

### One man's opinion

"If you're going to be in this conference, you better be competitive and willing to make a commitment to excellence or you're not going to compete well. Boise is clearly the class of the league. It's not close. But certainly Fresno is right there. Many other schools aspire to get there and I think many can."

—new San Jose State coach Dick Tomey



Korey Hall,  
Boise State

### Rating the recruits

- Boise State**  
The Broncos landed four WRs and two TEs, including WR Jeremy Childs.
- Fresno State**  
Offensive lineman Joe Bernardi (6-2, 265 lbs) was one of the top prospects on the West Coast.
- Hawaii**  
The Warriors added bulk with four defensive linemen and four offensive linemen.
- Louisiana Tech**  
Following the loss of Ryan Moats to the NFL, the Bulldogs added three prep RBs.
- Nevada**  
The first recruiting class under Chris Ault included a combined seven RBs and WRs.
- New Mexico State**  
First class under Hal Mumme includes 18 high school seniors, five JC transfers.
- Idaho**  
Fills needs with seven junior-college players, including three WRs.
- Utah State**  
Signed 21 high school seniors, the most since 2001.
- San Jose State**  
Late hiring of Dick Tomey affected recruiting: the Spartans signed 17 players.



BOISE, IDAHO

# BOISE STATE BRONCOS



**2004 Record:** 11-1 overall, 8-0 WAC (lost to Louisville in the Liberty Bowl, 44-40)

**Stadium:** Bronco Stadium

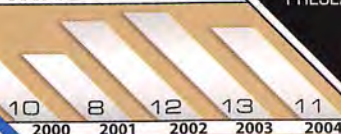
**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 30,000

**Official athletic Web site:** www.broncosports.com



## FIVEYEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

**1**

**Head coach:** Dan Hawkins, 5th Year (44-6) **Career Record:** 84-17-1

**Assistant coaches:** Romeo Bandison (DL), Ron Collins (def. coord./LBs), Bryan Harsin (TEs), Chris Petersen (off. coord./QB), Kent Riddle (RBs/STs), Steve Smyte (WRs), Chris Strausser (asst. head coach/off. line), Robert Tucker (recruiting coord./safeties), Marcel Yates (CBs)

## Boise State set to return star QB Zabransky and most of its best players to 'traditional' blue turf of Bronco Stadium

**N**o one can argue that Boise State has established itself as one of the top programs in the nation, despite competing in a mid-major conference.

Under coach Dan Hawkins, Boise State has won 25 consecutive games on the blue turf at Bronco Stadium, the longest home-winning streak in the nation, while making life miserable for its conference opponents. Boise State has won three WAC titles in a row and hasn't lost a WAC game since Nov. 3, 2001.

Making matters worse for Boise State's conference opponents is that the Broncos, who went undefeated during the regular season, remain mostly intact. Boise State returns 17 starters, eight on both sides of the ball, including their starting backfield.

Boise State won't waste any time finding out where they sit on the national landscape: the Broncos open at Georgia in a game televised on ESPN. From there, the Broncos play at Oregon State. Assuming Boise State runs the table again in the WAC, and beats Georgia and Oregon State, it will be interesting to see if that's enough to catapult the Broncos into a BCS game.

Any WAC team hoping to knock off Boise State better catch them at home: the Broncos showed a propensity to play close games on the road. Boise State edged Tulsa 45-42 last season by scoring 10 points in the final 1:24; against last-place San Jose State, the Broncos won 56-49 in double-overtime after usually reliable SJSU kicker Jeff Carr had a 30-yard game-winning field goal blocked with 1:07 remaining.

In conference games at home, Boise State plays like a well-oiled machine: its closest game at Bronco Stadium last season was a 17-point victory over Fresno State.

It's a scary thought, but Boise State might be even better this season.

Junior quarterback Jared Zabransky made quite a splash last season as the unproven successor to

Ryan Dinwiddie and led the WAC in quarterback efficiency rating (147.0). Zabransky, who rushed for 13 touchdowns and passed for 16 more

last season and was named a "Player to Watch" by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, returns to lead an offense that ranked second in the nation by averaging 48.9 points per game.

Although Zabransky lost his favorite target in T.J. Acree (55 catches, 947 yards, eight touchdowns), the Broncos might have their deepest group of wideouts ever. Junior Drisan James caught 40 passes for 568 yards last season and should emerge as the go-to receiver.

From there, the Broncos have three seniors and two juniors who are all battling for starting jobs.

Senior running back Lee Marks is poised for a 1,000-yard season after gaining 968 yards in 189 carries and two touchdowns last season. The main reason Marks didn't make more trips into the end zone is junior Jon Helmandollar (5-11, 227), a bruising runner who emerged as the goal-line specialist and scored 14 touchdowns.

The offensive line, which returns three starters and a fourth player who shared starting duties, could be the strength of Boise State's offense. Senior All-America candidate Daryn Colledge (6-5, 298) has started all 39 games in his career at left tackle, establishing himself as one of the best in the country.

Although the Broncos lost All-WAC linebacker Andy Avalos, they return another all-conference selection in Korey Hall, who finished second on the team in tackles.

The biggest question mark might be in the secondary, where the Broncos lost a pair of All-WAC selections in Gabe Franklin and Chris Carr. Boise State showed its pass defense was vulnerable last season, ranking 99th in the country and gave up big plays in the passing game against San Jose State and Tulsa. **WAC**



DRISAN JAMES, WR



JARED ZABRANSKY, QB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@GEORGIA	
S. 10	@OREGON STATE	53-34
S. 21	Bowling Green	
O. 1	@HAWAII	69-3
O. 8	Portland State	
O. 15	San Jose State	56-49 (2 OT)
O. 22	@UTAH STATE	
O. 29	Nevada	58-21
N. 5	New Mexico State	
N. 12	@FRESNO STATE	33-16
N. 19	Idaho	65-7
N. 26	@LOUISIANA TECH	55-14

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/13

### OFFENSE

QB	5	Jared Zabransky (6-2, 203, Jr.)
FB	34	Brad Lau (5-11, 255, Jr.)
RB	17	Lee Marks (5-7, 181, Sr.)
LT	73	Daryn Colledge (6-5, 298, Sr.)
LG	66	Tad Miller (6-4, 303, So.)
C	50	Joe Weigand (6-1, 286, Jr.)
RG	64	Pete Cavender (6-2, 289, So.)
RT	54	Jeff Cavender (6-2, 287, So.)
TE	91	Derek Schouman (6-2, 211, Jr.)
WR	11	Drisan James (5-11, 187, Jr.)
WR	7	Josh Smith (5-11, 182, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	74	Mike Dominguez (6-2, 251, Jr.)
LT	99	Alex Guerrero (6-1, 296, Sr.)
RT	57	Andrew Browning (6-0, 278, Jr.)
RE	96	Mike G. Williams (6-3, 245, Jr.)
WLB	55	Chris Barrios (5-11, 220, Jr.)
MLB	25	Korey Hall (6-1, 231, Jr.)
SLB	31	Colt Brooks (6-1, 209, Jr.)
CB	18	Gerald Alexander (6-0, 197, Jr.)
CB	23	Quinton Jones (5-9, 186, Jr.)
FS	27	Cam Hall (6-1, 200, Jr.)
ROV	37	Austin Smith (5-9, 170, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Jameson Davis (5-9, 191, r-Fr.)
P	42	Kyle Stringer (5-8, 190, Jr.)

WAC





PAUL PINEGAR, QB



# FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS



FRESNO, CALIF.

**2004 Record:** 9-3 overall, 5-3 WAC (beat Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl, 37-34)  
**Stadium:** Bulldog Stadium **Turf:** Grass **Capacity:** 41,031  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.gobulldogs.com

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

7 11 9 9 9  
 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

**Head coach:** Pat Hill, 9th Year (64-38) **Career Record:** 64-38

**Assistant coaches:** John Baxter (assoc. head coach/WRs/special teams), Dan Brown (def. coord.), Kerry Locklin (def. line), Frank Cignetti (off. coord./QBs), John Settle (RBs), Tim Simons (TEs), Mark Weber (off. line), Randy Stewart (secondary), Tom Mason (LBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	Weber State	
S. 17	@OREGON	
S. 27	Toledo	
O. 8	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
O. 15	Utah State	
O. 22	@IDAHO	
O. 29	@HAWAII	70-14
N. 5	San Jose State	62-28
N. 12	Boise State	16-33
N. 19	@USC	
N. 26	@NEVADA	54-17
D. 3	Louisiana Tech	21-28

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 51/15

### OFFENSE

QB	13 Paul Pinegar (6-4, 220, Sr.)
FB	26 Roshon Vercher (5-11, 245, Jr.)
TB	34 Bryson Sumlin (5-10, 200, Sr.)
LT	50 Dartangon Shack (6-2, 300, Jr.)
LG	62 Cole Popovich (6-2, 275, r-Fr.)
C	59 Kyle Young (6-5, 330, Jr.)
RG	77 Ryan Wendell (6-2, 260, So.)
RT	79 Chris Denman (6-6, 260, Jr.)
TE	88 Jesus Tapia (6-6, 215, So.)
WR	84 Joe Fernandez (5-10, 175, Jr.)
WR	5 Adam Jennings (5-10, 175, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	92 Marlon Brisco (6-3, 240, Jr.)
NT	97 Jason Shirley (6-5, 295, So.)
DT	71 Garrett McIntyre (6-3, 260, Sr.)
DE	11 Tyler Clutts (6-2, 200, So.)
OLB	31 Marcus Riley (6-0, 190, So.)
MLB	51 Dwayne Andrews (6-0, 240, Jr.)
OLB	10 Alan Goodwin (6-2, 220, Jr.)
CB	24 Richard Marshall (5-11, 170, Jr.)
CB	17 Marcus McCauley (6-1, 190, Jr.)
FS	36 Tyrone Culver (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SS	27 Awan Diles (5-9, 180, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	39 Clint Stitser (6-0, 197, So.)
P	37 Mike Lingua (6-0, 190, Jr.)

## Pinegar, Bulldogs looking to keep torrid scoring pace of 2004's last six games going

**B**efore last season even started, coach Pat Hill made some strong statements on national radio about his Bulldogs being ready to become fixtures on the national scene. To prove that, Hill spoke about his willingness to play anyone, anytime.

Hill has backed up those words by scheduling USC, the two-time defending national champions, in a game that follows Fresno State's late-season showdown with Boise State.

Fresno State added USC to its schedule and will play the Trojans on Nov. 19 in Los Angeles. The Bulldogs host Boise State one week earlier in a game that could likely determine the WAC championship.

Although USC is expected to open the season ranked No. 1 in the country, Fresno State has scheduled the Trojans at the right time. Fresno State, which finished last season ranked in the Top 25 for the first time since 1993, could be even better this season.

The Bulldogs return 17 starters from a team that went 9-3 and won its last six games, including a victory over Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl.

Fresno State's offense reached new heights during its final six games, averaging 52.8 points.



BRYSON SUMLIN, TB

On the season, the Bulldogs ranked fifth in the nation in scoring offense.

All the pieces are in place to duplicate that success, as the Bulldogs return nine starters on offense.

Quarterback Paul Pinegar is a three-year starter and owns a 24-8 record, including a 6-3 mark against BCS teams. During Fresno State's final six games, Pinegar threw for 1,184 yards and 17 touchdowns with just three interceptions. In the bowl victory over the Cavaliers, Pinegar completed 23 of 36 passes for 235 yards and five touchdowns.

As good as the passing game is, the Bulldogs' ground attack might be better. Fresno State returns one of the best tandems in the nation and could boast two 1,000-yard rushers by the season's end. Senior Bryson Sumlin (5-10, 200) became the 12th running back in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards last season and has scored 25 touchdowns in the last two seasons. Wendell Mathis rushed for 995 yards and 12 touchdowns in 146 carries, averaging 6.8 yards per carry.

The Bulldogs also return their leading receivers, including junior Joe Fernandez, the son of former Oakland Raider Mervyn Fernandez, who caught a team-high 38 passes for 546 yards and four touchdowns.

Fresno State led the WAC in scoring defense and total defense and should be just as solid this season. The Bulldogs return seven starters, including tackle Garrett McIntyre, a preseason favorite to win the conference's Defensive Player of the Year. McIntyre (6-3, 260) has 18 career sacks and 30 tackles for losses.

There is also experience at linebacker and defensive back, led by middle linebacker Dwayne Andrews, the team's leading tackler last season, and cornerback Richard Marshall, a second-team All-WAC pick.

For Fresno State to join Boise State as a top-10 team, the Bulldogs need to avoid the midseason slumps that have plagued them the last two years.

In 2003, the Bulldogs started the season 3-4 before winning six of their last seven games, including a bowl game over UCLA. Last season, Fresno State won its first three games before going on a three-game slide, losing to Louisiana Tech, Texas El-Paso and Boise State. The Bulldogs regrouped by running off six wins in a row.

If they beat the teams on the schedule they're supposed to, and knock off Boise State or USC, Fresno State could be in contention for a top bowl game. **WAC**



# NEVADA

## WOLF PACK



RENO, NEV.

2004 Record: 5-7 overall, 3-5 WAC

Stadium: Mackay Stadium

Official athletic Web site: [www.nevadawolfpack.com](http://www.nevadawolfpack.com)

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 31,900



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

3



Head coach: Chris Ault, 21st Year (168-70-1) Career Record: 168-70-1

Assistant coaches: Ken Wilson (asst. head coach/LBs), Chris Klenakis (off. coord./OL), Barry Sacks (co-def. coord./DEs), Tim DeRuyter (co-def. coord./secondary), Scott Baumgartner (QBs/STs), Marty Long (DTs), Jim Mastro (RBs), Kim McCloud (WRs), Cameron Norcross (TEs)

## Flowers blooms under radar in Reno as Wolf Pack offense is set to blossom

Receiver Nichiren Flowers might be the best-kept secret in Division I-A football. At 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds, Flowers has the size, hands and athletic ability to become one of the nation's leading receivers.

Oh, wait, he already is.

Last season, Flowers ranked sixth in the nation in receptions (91) and 15th in receiving yards (1,126), but hasn't received the national attention of other receivers who posted lesser numbers.

If Flowers can boost his scoring output—he recorded six touchdowns last season—he could merit All-America consideration. And with maturation of junior quarterback Jeff Rowe, the Wolf Pack's passing game could really flourish this season, perhaps elevating them to a bowl game.

Rowe, a 6-5, 220-pound quarterback, was highly touted as a freshman and finally came into his own last season, throwing for 2,633 yards and 15 touchdowns.

If the Wolf Pack wants to avoid relying solely on its passing attack, they need to find a replacement for running back Chance Kretschmer. Senior B.J. Mitchell is poised to take the bulk of the carries, having rushed for 450 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior.

Rowe and company will be protected by a somewhat inexperienced front line that lost three starters and returns senior Adam Kiefer (6-4, 300 pounds) and junior Jimmy Wadhams (6-3, 285).

Defensively, the Wolf Pack finished in the middle of the pack in total defense and could improve that ranking with the emergence of Jeremy Engstrom. The 6-1, 235-pound sophomore linebacker was a second-team All-WAC selection after recording 97 tackles last year. Senior J.J. Milan, a defensive end who will be converted to linebacker this season, led the team in sacks (4.5) and was tied in tackles for loss with 10.5.

The Wolf Pack will have to overcome its reliance on underclassmen—60 percent of the roster is comprised of freshmen and

sophomores. Still, Nevada returns 15 starters, including eight on defense.

The players also have a year of experience playing under Chris Ault and his wide-open, one-back offense. Ault cleaned house during his first season, getting rid of players with bad attitudes or who didn't jibe with the direction of the program.

Now Ault, entering his 21st year as Nevada's coach (spread over two stints), believes the Wolf Pack are ready to become one of the conference's upper-echelon teams.

Nevada also beefed up its non-conference schedule, opening the season at home against Washington State and UNLV before a trip to Colorado State. Last season the Wolf Pack fattened up on Sacramento State and Buffalo before beginning conference play.

But for Nevada to be in bowl contention in December, the Wolf Pack

must win at least one of those non-conference games. In the high-scoring WAC, there simply aren't enough sure things. **WAC**



NICHIREN FLOWERS, WR



JEFF ROWE, QB

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 9	Washington State	
S. 17	UNLV	13-48
S. 24	@COLORADO STATE	
O. 1	@SAN JOSE STATE	42-24
O. 8	Idaho	
O. 15	Louisiana Tech	21-38
O. 29	@BOISE STATE	21-58
N. 5	Hawaii	26-48
N. 12	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
N. 19	@UTAH STATE	
N. 26	Fresno State	17-54

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	3	Jeff Rowe (6-5, 220, Jr.)
RB	8	B.J. Mitchell (5-8, 205, Sr.)
ST	68	Adam Kiefer (6-4, 300, Sr.)
SG	70	Barrett Reznick (6-1, 280, Jr.)
C	76	Jimmy Wadhams (6-3, 285, Jr.)
WG	61	Dominic Green (6-3, 285, r-Fr.)
WT	58	Tony Moll (6-4, 280, Sr.)
WR	83	Anthony Pudewell (6-3, 240, Jr.)
WR	5	Caleb Spencer (6-0, 180, Jr.)
WR	89	Mike McCoy (6-0, 190, r-Fr.)
WR	84	Nichiren Flowers (6-3, 210, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	93	Charles Wilson (6-4, 275, Jr.)
NT	57	Matt Hines (6-1, 285, So.)
DE	90	Craig Bailey (6-4, 260, Sr.)
BAN	55	Selvasio Fauolo (6-3, 220, Jr.)
WLB	26	Roosevelt Cooks (5-10, 220, Sr.)
MLB	44	Jeremy Engstrom (6-1, 235, So.)
SLB	91	J.J. Milan (6-5, 265, Sr.)
CB	35	Paul Pratt (5-10, 185, Jr.)
CB	33	Kevin Stanley (6-0, 175, Sr.)
FS	29	Roderick Stallings (5-10, 195, Jr.)
SS	28	Nick Hawthorne (6-0, 200, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	99	Brett Jaekle (6-2, 225, r-Fr.)
P	69	Justin Bergendahl (6-2, 210, Sr.)

WAC



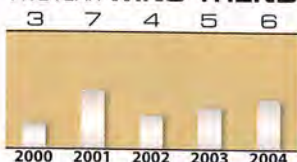
# LOUISIANA TECH

## BULLDOGS

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 5-3 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.latechsports.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	@FLORIDA	
S. 17	@KANSAS	
O. 1	New Mexico State	
O. 8	Hawaii	23-34
O. 15	@NEVADA	38-21
O. 22	North Texas	
O. 29	San Jose State	
N. 5	@UTAH STATE	
N. 12	@IDAHO	
N. 26	Boise State	14-55
D. 3	@FRESNO STATE	28-21

Head coach: Jack Bicknell,  
7th Year (33-38)

Career Record: 33-38

Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 30,600

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/25

#### OFFENSE

QB	13	Matt Kubik (6-3, 209, Sr.)
RB	43	Mark Dillard (5-11, 205, So.)
LT	73	Tyler Miller (6-7, 296, So.)
LG	64	Aaron Lips (6-5, 317, Sr.)
C	56	Marcus Stewart (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RG	63	Ryan Considine (6-5, 290, So.)
RT	78	Marcus Lindsey (6-7, 375, Jr.)
TE	89	Anthony James (6-6, 259, Sr.)
WR	7	Johnathan Holland (6-0, 186, Jr.)
WR	82	Eric Newman (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	6	Seneca Chambers (6-2, 175, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	98	Moqut Ruffins (6-5, 277, Sr.)
NT	93	Ladarius Love (6-4, 330, Sr.)
DT	85	Quarvay Winbush (6-5, 255, Sr.)
WLB	8	Jeremy Hamilton (5-11, 218, Sr.)
MLB	58	Brannon Jackson (6-2, 220, So.)
SLB	42	Byron Santiago (6-2, 222, Sr.)
BUCK	34	Barry Robertson (6-3, 240, Sr.)
CB	25	Tramon Williams (6-0, 180, Sr.)
BC	18	Delone Williams (6-1, 191, Sr.)
FS	35	Dez Abrams (6-0, 186, Jr.)
SS	31	Bo Cox (6-2, 200, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	48	Danny Horwedel (6-2, 185, So.)
P	41	Matt Butler (6-3, 215, So.)

Just how good would the Bulldogs be this season had running back Ryan Moats not declared for the NFL Draft and returned for his senior season?

It's hard to say, but judging on where Moats went in the draft (the third round to Philadelphia), our best guess is pretty good.

Instead of featuring Moats, the nation's seventh-leading rusher last season with a school-record 1,774 yards and 18 touchdowns in 288 carries, the Bulldogs are looking for someone to fill those shoes.

Mark Dillard and Freddie Franklin, who combined for 206 yards last season, top the list of candidates to replace the departed workhorse. If the spring game is any indication, this battle could spill over into the regular season.

Dillard rushed for 158 yards in 17 carries and showed flashes of break-away speed by scoring on a 70-yard touchdown run. Franklin gained 48 yards in five carries but had his day cut short when he was injured after breaking free on a 32-yard run.

Whoever wins the battle will be running behind an experienced frontline, led by left guard Aaron Lips (6-5, 317), a first-team All-WAC selection, and right tackle Marcus Lindsey (6-7, 375).

The quarterback derby between incumbent Matt Kubik, sophomore Zac Champion and Donald Allen could last well into fall camp. Kubik passed for 1,818 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior. Allen played sparingly last season, completing 27 of 52 passes for 317 yards and one touchdown.

The Bulldogs should have one of the conference's best defenses. Louisiana Tech's linebackers will be a force with the return of three starters, including Byron Santiago, a first-team All-WAC selection who had 82 tackles last season. With senior Jeremy Hamilton (75 tackles, 3.5 sacks) and defensive back Tramon Williams (4 interceptions), the defense should keep the Bulldogs in most of their games.

Like so many teams in the WAC, Louisiana Tech could take its share of lumps in the early going, opening at Florida and Kansas. But the Bulldogs' schedule is nowhere near as difficult as last season, when Louisiana Tech played six games against Top 25 teams. **WAC**

# SAN JOSE STATE

## SPARTANS

2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.sjsuspartans.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Eastern Washington	
S. 10	@ILLINOIS	
S. 24	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
O. 1	Nevada	24-42
O. 8	@UTAH STATE	
O. 15	@BOISE STATE	49-56 (2OT)
O. 22	Hawaii	28-46
O. 29	@LOUISIANA TECH	
N. 5	@FRESNO STATE	28-62
N. 19	New Mexico State	
N. 26	Idaho	

Head coach: Dick Tomey,

1st Year, (0-0)

Career Record: 158-110-7

Stadium: Spartan Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 31,218

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/16

#### OFFENSE

QB	17	Adam Tafralis (6-1, 219, So.)
FB	42	James T. Callier (6-0, 221, So.)
TB	34	Yonus Davis (5-7, 169, So.)
LT	77	Amadeo Novella (6-4, 305, Sr.)
LG	62	Marcel Burrough (6-6, 349, Jr.)
C	76	Matt Cantu (6-3, 290, Jr.)
RG	63	John Booker (6-4, 300, So.)
RT	71	John Toensfeldt (6-8, 290, Sr.)
TE	82	Bryan Watje (6-3, 250, Sr.)
WR	80	Rufus Skillern (6-1, 183, Sr.)
WR	3	James Jones (6-1, 196, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	54	Larnell Ransom (6-0, 253, Sr.)
DT	69	Kinji Green (6-2, 275, Sr.)
DT	98	Anthony Flores (6-4, 299, Sr.)
DE	95	Justin James (6-5, 238, Sr.)
LB	6	Bobby Godinez (5-11, 207, Sr.)
LB	21	Eric Wilson (5-9, 202, Sr.)
LB	35	Matt Castelo (5-10, 190, So.)
CB	4	Trestin George (5-9, 178, Sr.)
CB	20	Larry Collins (5-10, 181, Sr.)
S	15	Brian Nunez (5-11, 176, Sr.)
S	33	Josh Powell (6-3, 208, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Bijan Shahmirza (5-8, 251, Jr.)
P	18	Waylon Prather (6-3, 229, So.)

Long-suffering SJSU fans are hoping new coach Dick Tomey provides the same magic touch as Mike Price, who turned around former WAC member Texas El-Paso in just one season.

Tomey was hired in January to replace Fitz Hill, who was fired after going 14-33 in four seasons with the Spartans. By hiring a proven winner—Tomey currently ranks eighth in victories among active coaches in Division I-A—SJSU gains instant respectability, something it has lacked.

There are similarities between the situations Price and Tomey walked into. Both are established coaches in the later stages of their careers. Both inherited a veteran team coming off a last-place finish in the WAC. In 2003, Price turned the Miners from bottom-feeders into WAC contenders.

Tomey is taking over a team that went 2-9 and finished in last place in the WAC. Like the UTEP situation, SJSU returns a senior-laden team (34), including 14 returning starters, and will have 85 scholarship players for the first time in school history. The Spartans showed flashes last season by taking Boise State into double overtime before losing 56-49 and outscoring Rice 70-63 in regulation.

Offensively, former Stanford standout Ken Margerum is running the show and has installed the West Coast offense in its purest form. Margerum, a protégé of SJSU alumnus Bill Walsh, was also one of two finalists for SJSU's head-coaching job.

Margerum has plenty to work with, including what is arguably the fastest receiving corps in the WAC. The Spartans return their three leading receivers, Rufus Skillern (40 catches, 588 yards), John Broussard (20, 343) and James Jones (25, 317), and will look to get the ball in their hands.

Skillern could be poised for a breakout season. In SJSU's loss to Boise State, the returning senior had 10 catches for 167 yards and a touchdown.

Redshirt sophomore Adam Tafralis, who shared the starting duty last year with Dale Rogers, is the only quarterback on the roster with Division I-A experience and is expected to begin the season as the starter. Tafralis, an athletic, strong-armed quarterback, completed 29 of 65 passes last season for 432 yards and two touchdowns.

San Jose State lost leading rushers Tyson Thompson and Lance Martin. **WAC**



# HAWAII

## RAINBOW WARRIORS



**14 Record:** 8-5 overall, 4-4 WAC  
**at UAB in the Hawaii Bowl, 59-40)**  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu

Get ready for some Elvis sightings Aloha Stadium.

Former NFL coach and character rry Glanville, who was infamous r religiously leaving tickets for "The ng" at will-call, was hired to turn ound the second-worst defense in e nation.

Hawaii ranked 116th in total efense last season, giving up an average of 487.8 yards per game, and nished 112th in scoring defense by llowing an average of 38.4 points.

Although Glanville has been out of oaching since 1994, Hawaii's new efensive coordinator doesn't think e'll miss a beat. Glanville, a defenive guru in the NFL, made head oaching stops with the Houston ilers and Atlanta Falcons, and pent the last year actively looking to et back into the college ranks.

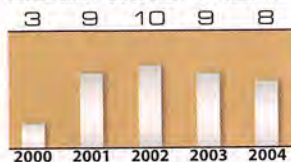
Hawaii may need to rely on its efense this season with so many ew faces on offense. Most every-one responsible for putting up an average of 35.9 points per game last season are gone, including quarter-back Timmy Chang, who threw for a NCAA-record 16,667 career passing yards, breaking the mark set by Ty Detmer (15,031 yards) in 1991.

Six other offensive starters are also gone, all skill-position players, including all four receivers in June Jones' run-and-shoot offense. The most notable void is NFL draftee Chad Owens, a first-team All-WAC selection who caught 102 passes for 1,290 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2004. Running backs Michael Brewster and West Keliikipi, who combined for 1,058 yards and 13 touchdowns, are also gone.

Chang's replacement probably won't be decided until the end of fall practice. Of the five quarterbacks vying for the starting job, senior Kainoa Akina is the most experienced. The transfer from Eastern Michigan played in seven games last season, completing seven of 19 passes for 84 yards. Senior Jeffrey Rhode and three freshmen are also in contention.

Whoever wins those starting jobs should be well protected. Hawaii's offensive line returns almost intact, bringing back four starters, including junior Samson Satele, a second-team All-WAC pick. Defensively, there is a solid returning nucleus. **WAC**

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	USC	
S. 10	@MICHIGAN STATE	41-38
S. 24	@IDAHO	52-21
O. 1	Boise State	3-69
O. 8	@LOUISIANA TECH	34-23
O. 15	New Mexico State	
O. 22	@SAN JOSE STATE	46-28
O. 29	Fresno State	14-70
N. 5	@NEVADA	48-26
N. 12	Utah State	
N. 25	Wisconsin	
D. 3	San Diego State	

**Head coach:** June Jones,  
7th Year (48-30)

**Career Record:** 48-30

**Stadium:** Aloha Stadium

**Turf:** Artificial

**Capacity:** 50,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 36/16

#### OFFENSE

QB	13	Tyler Graunke (5-11, 179, Fr.)
RB	4	Nate Ilaao (5-9, 240, Sr.)
LT	70	Tala Esera (6-3, 291, Jr.)
LG	64	Samson Satele (6-2, 278, Jr.)
C	59	Derek Faavi (6-0, 271, Sr.)
RG	66	Brandon Eaton (6-2, 291, Sr.)
RT	72	Dana Uperesa (6-5, 328, Jr.)
WR	81	Ian Sample (5-10, 195, Sr.)
WR	85	Patrick Olchovy (5-8, 169, So.)
WR	21	Jason Ferguson (5-5, 157, So.)
WR	82	Ross Dickerson (5-11, 190, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	98	Melila Purcell (6-4, 266, Sr.)
DT	63	Michael Lafaele (6-1, 297, So.)
DT	86	Ammon Tong (6-0, 254, So.)
RE	30	Kila Kamakawio'ole (6-3, 241, Sr.)
WLB	45	Tanuvasa Moe (5-11, 210, Sr.)
MLB	43	Brad Kalilimoku (5-11, 201, So.)
SLB	44	Khevin Peoples (5-11, 200, r-Fr.)
LCB	10	Turmarian Moreland (6-0, 194, Sr.)
RCB	24	Kenny Patton (6-0, 187, Jr.)
FS	42	Leonard Peters (6-1, 184, Sr.)
SS	15	Lono Manners (5-10, 204, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	26	Nolan Miranda (5-8, 163, Jr.)
P	25	Kurt Milne (6-0, 196, Jr.)

# NEW MEXICO STATE

## AGGIES



**2004 Record:** 5-6 overall, 4-3 Sun Belt  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.nmstatesports.com

The Aggies got a taste of life in the WAC last season in a game at Texas El-Paso, and it was certainly an eye-opening experience.

They lost 45-0.

Making the transition from the Sun Belt Conference to the WAC certainly won't be easy for any of the incoming teams, which includes Idaho and Utah State.

But life could be especially hard for New Mexico State as it gets acclimated to new coach Hal Mumme, a new offense and defense and a significantly upgraded schedule.

Not only has New Mexico State upgraded its conference schedule by joining the WAC and getting games against Fresno State and Boise State, but the non-conference schedule is absolutely brutal. The Aggies open at home against a resurrected UTEP program, play consecutive road games at Colorado and New Mexico, then return home to play Cal.

Their first foray into WAC play isn't much easier: a road trip to Louisiana Tech is followed by a home game against Fresno State, one of two favorites to win the league title. From there, New Mexico State makes the always-difficult trek to Honolulu to play Hawaii.

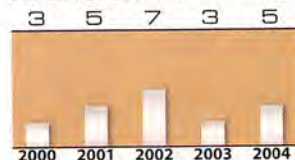
By the time the Aggies finally catch a break with a home game against Idaho, they will be seven games into their season.

But Mumme, who is 97-46-1 as a head coach (including at Kentucky from 1997-2000), does have experience in his favor. The Aggies return nine offensive starters, which should help while Mumme junks the option-oriented offense for a passing attack. New Mexico State's strength will be its offensive line, which returns four starters, including Nick Cole, a second-team, all-conference selection.

The Aggies also return an experienced group of running backs and receivers, including Muammar Ali, who rushed for a team-high 561 yards last season.

Quarterback will be a question mark leading up to the season opener as three candidates battle for the starting job. Senior Paul Dombrowski was the backup last season and also saw time at receiver, but attempted just 40 passes. Junior Joey Vincent has a strong arm but attempted just 14 passes last season. Junior college transfer Royal Gill is also in the mix. **WAC**

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	UTEP	0-45
S. 10	@COLORADO	
S. 17	@NEW MEXICO	3-38
S. 23	California	14-41
O. 1	@LOUISIANA TECH	
O. 8	Fresno State	
O. 15	@HAWAII	
O. 29	Idaho	
N. 5	@BOISE STATE	
N. 12	Nevada	
N. 19	@SAN JOSE STATE	
N. 26	Utah State	25-34

**Head coach:** Hal Mumme,  
1st Year (0-0)

**Career Record:** 97-46-1

**Stadium:** Aggie Memorial Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

**Capacity:** 30,343

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18

#### OFFENSE

QB	10	Paul Dombrowski (6-0, 216, Sr.)
RB	20	Muammar Ali (5-8, 195, Jr.)
LT	75	Kyle Smith (6-2, 265, Jr.)
LG	65	Jose Quinones (6-1, 300, Jr.)
C	69	Mike Martinez (6-3, 315, So.)
RG	64	Nick Cole (6-1, 348, Sr.)
RT	74	Adam Honaker (6-3, 295, So.)
TE	86	Roger Brown (6-3, 247, Sr.)
WR	84	Tim Tolbert (6-1, 184, Jr.)
WR	7	Brandon Allen (6-1, 172, So.)
WR	19	Derek Dubois (6-1, 172, So.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	96	Chase Spicer (6-5, 278, Sr.)
NG	92	Sam Ford (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RE	91	Jared Naylor (6-2, 278, Jr.)
WAN	24	John Howell (6-2, 232, Sr.)
LOB	93	Brandon McKinney (6-3, 240, So.)
MLB	42	Jimmy Cottrell (6-0, 237, Sr.)
ROB	58	Chris Sneed (6-1, 216, Jr.)
LB	31	Shukree Shabazz (5-9, 183, Jr.)
ROV	25	Gill Byrd 95-9, 160, Jr.)
FS	2	Matt Griebel (5-10, 180, Sr.)
SS	41	Eric Carrie (5-9, 200, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	43	Ryan Guardia (5-8, 216, So.)
P	48	Brad Evans (6-4, 184, Jr.)

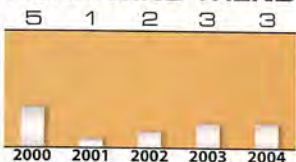


# IDAHO VANDALS



2004 Record: 3-9 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt  
Official athletic Web site: www.uiathletics.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@WASHINGTON STATE	8-49
S. 10	@UNLV	
S. 17	@WASHINGTON	
S. 24	Hawaii	21-52
O. 1	Utah State	7-14
O. 8	@NEVADA	
O. 22	Fresno State	
O. 29	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
N. 12	Louisiana Tech	
N. 19	@BOISE STATE	7-65
N. 26	@SAN JOSE STATE	

Head coach: Nick Holt,

2nd Year (3-9)

Career Record: 3-9

Stadium: Kibbie Dome

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 16,000

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/15

### OFFENSE

QB	7	Michael Harrington (6-3, 210, Sr.)
RB	44	Jayson Bird (6-0, 220, So.)
LT	77	Hank Thieren (6-7, 322, Jr.)
LG	50	Jake Tadvick (6-5, 320, Jr.)
C	63	Jarrod Schulte (6-3, 269, Sr.)
RG	78	Geoff Zuber (6-4, 320, Jr.)
RT	68	Nate VanderPol (6-6, 312, Jr.)
TE	45	Luke Smith-Anderson (6-5, 251, Jr.)
WR	81	Jeff Stowe (6-0, 190, Jr.)
WR	4	Desmond Belton (6-4, 180, So.)
WR	19	Wendell Octave (6-1, 178, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	99	Mike Bonelli (6-2, 236, Sr.)
DT	92	Jeff Edwards (6-3, 263, Sr.)
DT	91	Siuva Musika (6-1, 302, So.)
DE	58	Ben Alexander (6-1, 230, So.)
LB	13	Mike Anderson (6-3, 237, Sr.)
LB	47	Cole Snyder (5-11, 230, Sr.)
LB	27	Nate Nichols (6-2, 223, Sr.)
CB	14	Reggie Jones (5-10, 190, So.)
CB	25	Chris Meadows (5-11, 175, r-Fr.)
S	2	Brandon Mascorro (5-10, 200, Jr.)
S	3	Jevon Butler (6-0, 205, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	43	Mike Barrow (5-11, 150, Jr.)
P	13	T.J. Conley (6-3, 210, Fr.)

Idaho's program suffered a tremendous loss last season when Eric McMillan, a 19-year-old from Murrieta Valley, Calif., was murdered by gunmen when he answered his door on the afternoon of Sept. 19.

His teammates persevered, honoring his memory by placing stickers with "EM" and his "No. 7" on their helmets. It also placed perspective on a disappointing 3-9 season.

The Vandals will carry McMillan's memory with them during their first season in the WAC. Making the jump won't be easy. By the time the Vandals open conference play with Hawaii at home, they will have played three consecutive games on the road against Washington State, UNLV and Washington. Idaho is playing just four home games this season, with seven on the road.

But the Vandals are used to playing a brutal schedule. Last season under first-year coach Nick Holt, Idaho placed seventh in the Sun Belt Conference while playing a 12-game schedule without any byes against the likes of Boise State, Washington State, Oregon and Hawaii. No team in the WAC plays that tough a non-conference schedule.

Although the Vandals were on the wrong end of many lopsided losses—including Boise State and Hawaii by a combined 89 points—they return the most starters of any team in the WAC, 18 in all. Still, Idaho is probably one or two years away from becoming a middle-of-the-pack team in its new league. The Vandals return 14 true freshmen who started or saw extensive playing time last season.

Quarterback Michael Harrington—older brother Joey is with the Detroit Lions—is one of two returning senior starters on offense, but will have to fight for his starting job during fall camp. Harrington, who threw for 2,222 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior, will likely be challenged by juco transfer Steven Wichman.

One position that is not in doubt is running back. Sophomore Jayson Bird is coming off a fantastic freshman season in which he rushed for 859 yards and eight touchdowns, earning second-team All-Sun Belt honors.

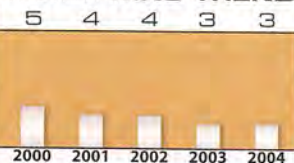
The backs will have plenty of familiar faces protecting them, as all five offensive linemen return. **WAC**

# UTAH STATE AGGIES



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt  
Official athletic Web site: www.utahstateaggies.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Nicholls State	
S. 10	@UTAH	6-48
S. 24	UNLV	31-21
O. 1	@IDAHO	14-7
O. 8	San Jose State	
O. 15	@FRESNO STATE	
O. 22	Boise State	
O. 29	@ALABAMA	17-48
N. 5	Louisiana Tech	
N. 12	@HAWAII	
N. 19	Nevada	
N. 26	@NEW MEXICO STATE	34-25

Head coach: Brent Guy,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Romney Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,257

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/22

### OFFENSE

QB	7	Leon Jackson III (6-2, 189, So.)
RB	2	Chris Forbes (5-11, 190, So.)
LT	72	Donald Penn (6-5, 315, Sr.)
LG	76	Malik Cin (6-5, 308, Jr.)
C	62	Brent DeLadurantey (6-3, 314, Jr.)
RG	63	Pace Jorgensen (6-5, 325, So.)
RT	74	Justin Schlimgen (6-2, 300, Sr.)
TE	88	Jimmy Bohm (6-2, 266, Sr.)
TE	87	Jason Stephens (6-5, 254, Jr.)
WR	1	Tony Pennyman (5-9, 160, Jr.)
WR	6	Kevin Robinson (6-0, 189, So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	37	John Chick (6-4, 248, Sr.)
DT	90	Michael Gates (6-4, 250, Sr.)
DT	75	Ryan DeQuillettes (6-3, 291, Sr.)
DE	56	Jarom Fano (6-1, 260, Sr.)
LB	40	Nate Fredrick (6-3, 241, Sr.)
LB	48	Jake Stewart (6-4, 208, Sr.)
LB	51	Matt Wiser (6-0, 232, Sr.)
CB	29	Cornelius Lamb (6-3, 183, Sr.)
CB	21	Jarrett Bush (6-1, 192, Sr.)
S	26	Andre Bala (5-11, 194, Sr.)
S	4	Joe Lindsay (5-11, 179, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	98	Jarrod Jakubiak (5-11, 204, Sr.)
P	13	Justin Hamblin (5-11, 149, Jr.)

Remember the name Kevin Robinson

The 6-foot, 189-pound sophomore is an up-and-coming receiver and return man for the Aggies, leading the team in both categories last season. As a receiver, Robinson was the fourth-leading freshman in the country with 44 catches for 602 yard and three touchdowns.

As a return specialist, Robinson was second in the nation in punt return average at 22.5 yards per return, earning him second-team All-Sun Belt Conference honors. Behind Robinson Utah State led the nation in punt-return average.

Players like Robinson have given first-year coach Brent Guy optimism about the future. In the meantime, Utah State could endure some lopsided losses during the rebuilding process.

Utah State was ranked No. 111 in the nation in total offense and scoring offense last season, which doesn't bode well in the high-scoring WAC. In four of their losses, Utah State was held to seven points or less.

The Aggies were successful throwing the ball in the Sun Belt Conference, averaging 214 yards per game (58th in the nation) but struggled on the ground, averaging just 76 yards per game.

With inexperience at quarterback, the Aggies need more production out of their running game. Sophomore Chris Forbes, one of five returning offensive starters, could be the answer. Forbes led the team in rushing last season with 396 yards and three TDs on 108 carries and is the only returning player who carried the ball 40 times or more last season.

Utah State's biggest concern is replacing quarterback Travis Cox, who threw for nearly 2,000 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior. Although Utah State returns two letter-winners, Leon Jackson III is the only player on the roster with Division I-A experience, having completed 26 of 48 passes for 404 yards and one touchdown last season.

Whoever wins the quarterback derby will have a nice pair of targets to throw to. Although Robinson was a part-time starter last season, he will likely assume a full-time role aside receiver Tony Pennyman, giving Utah State a nice tandem at receiver. Pennyman was the team's second-leading receiver last season. **WAC**



# MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:



## Games to watch:

- >> **Utah at TCU**, Sept. 15  
Welcome to the MWC. The Horned Frogs' first game in their new league is against a team that went 13-1 the past two years in league play.
- >> **New Mexico at Wyoming**, Oct. 15  
The top two candidates for the league title meet in midseason on the plains of Laramie.
- >> **Utah at BYU**, Nov. 19  
Both teams hope this in-state rivalry game/regular-season finale will be for all the MWC marbles.

official conference website  
[www.themwc.com](http://www.themwc.com)

## Return to league normalcy likely, but Utes are still the team to beat

By Loren Jorgensen  
*The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News*

It wasn't supposed to be. Most thought it would never happen. Bowl Championship Series games (and money) were never really meant to be available to any of the so-called "non-BCS leagues." Hence, the term "non-BCS league."

Sure, there had been talk of "BCS-busters" before, but every year by mid-November, if not sooner, that threat had passed and the top six football conferences had never had to share a piece of the pie with any of the other five leagues. Until the 2004 Utah Utes came along.

The stars aligned just right, as the best-ever Ute team, playing in an overall down season for the Mountain West Conference, rolled to a perfect record. Utah, frankly, was never really even tested. They never trailed in the second half of any game and won every contest by at least 14 points.

The BCS, thanks to Utah's top-six ranking in the BCS formula, was forced to take the Utes. Utah responded by thumping Big East automatic entrant Pittsburgh 35-7 in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day.

It certainly was a dream season for Utah

and the rest of the league, truth be told, since they each earned a share of the BCS money for the first time.

Alas, the MWC shouldn't get used to it, however. While Utah will be strong again, the losses of coach Urban Meyer, QB Alex Smith and a host of others will bring it back toward the pack. Many of the other MWC teams should be better and the addition of Texas Christian, formerly of Conference USA, will only help to ensure more parity.

Expect the league to be better overall than it was a year ago, when only three teams were bowl-eligible at season's end. What shouldn't be expected, however, is that one team will have a breakout year like Utah's in '04.

In other words, MWC teams will be back to setting their sites on getting to low-payout post-season games like the Las Vegas Bowl, Emerald Bowl and brand-new Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego.

Oh, well. Playing with the big boys and getting huge checks in the process was fun while it lasted.

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

### Offense

QB	John Beck, Jr., BYU
RB	Lynell Hamilton, So., San Diego St.
RB	DonTrell Moore, Sr., New Mexico
OL	Ryan Cook, Sr., New Mexico
OL	Jon Wilson, Sr., Air Force
OL	Jake Kuresa, Jr., BYU
OL	Jesse Boone, Sr., Utah
OL	Herbert Taylor, Jr., TCU
WR	David Anderson, Sr., Colorado St.
WR	Todd Watkins, Sr., BYU
TE	John Wadkowski, Sr., Wyoming
PK	Deric Yausi, Sr., Wyoming
PR/KR	Hoost Marsh, So., Wyoming

### Defense

OL	Steve Fifta, Sr., Utah
OL	Marcus Parker, Sr., N. Mexico
OL	Manala Brown, Sr., BYU
OL	Tommy Blake, So., TCU
LB	Spencer Toone, Sr., Utah
LB	Cameron Jensen, Jr., BYU
LB	Andrew Ward, Jr., TCU
DB	Gabriel Fulbright, Sr., New Mexico
DB	Derrick Martin, Jr., Wyoming
DB	Eric Waddle, Jr., Utah
DB	Quincy Butler, Sr., TCU
P	Adam Brooks, Jr., Wyoming

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Todd Watkins, BYU
Best hands	David Anderson, WR, Colorado State
Best passing QB	John Beck, BYU
Best running QB	Shaun Carney, Air Force
Most elusive RB	Lynell Hamilton, San Diego State
Best instincts	Hank Baskett, WR, New Mexico
Best athlete	Javon Bouknight, WR, Wyoming
Best under pressure	Tye Gunn, QB, TCU
Top NFL prospect	Steve Fifta, OL, Utah
Top impact freshman	Marquis Wilson, WR, Utah
Hardest hitter	Spencer Toone, LB, Utah
Biggest underachiever	Daniel Coats, TE, BYU

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Joe Glenn, Wyoming
Best recruiter	Gary Patterson, TCU
Coach on the spot	Tom Craft, SDSU

### Don't be surprised if ...

Utah's Brian Johnson becomes the best QB in the league. He's just 18 and less experienced than most of his counterparts, but he had an outstanding spring and spent all of last season soaking up information from former roommate and No. 1 overall NFL draft pick Alex Smith.

### One man's opinion

"It's a joke that the Big East Conference has an automatic BCS berth this year and our conference doesn't, especially after what [Utah] did against their champion [Pittsburgh] in the Fiesta Bowl."

—a Mountain West coach

### Rating the recruits

- 1. TCU**  
Talented class led by transfer DB Marvin White, freshman fullback Chris Smith and 6-8 OL Nic Richmond.
- 2. San Diego State**  
Aztecs always have great receivers—Tyrell Smith, Roberto Walker and Mekell Wesley will continue the tradition.
- 3. Utah**  
Hawaiian juco defensive linemen Soli Lefti and Tolifili Liufau are top talents. Fresh WR Marquis Wilson will play immediately.
- 4. BYU**  
Top recruit Matt Reynolds is son of Cougar assistant coach. Defensive tackle Russell Tielevee is another major prospect.
- 5. New Mexico**  
Signed a dozen transfers for fast relief, led by DB Aleem Harris. Quarterback Donovan Porterle is top freshman.
- 6. Wyoming**  
Inked 22 freshmen with just three transfers. Quarterback Karsten Sween and DT Corey Mace highlight the class.
- 7. UNLV**  
Coaching change/late start hurts Rebels. Running back Torrie Coleman and DB Jarrod Jackson give hope for future.
- 8. Colorado State**  
Freshman-intensive class [just three transfers] is headed by linebackers Jacob Pottorff and John Radford.
- 9. Air Force**  
Falcons don't sign letters-of-intent. Players expected to arrive in June include RBs Daylen Phillips and Wade Weyer.

Spencer Toone, Utah







QUINTON GANTHER, TB



**UTAH**  
UTES



SALT LAKE CITY

2004 Record: 12-0 overall, 7-0 MWC (beat Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl, 35-7)  
Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium Turf: Artificial Capacity: 45,017  
Official athletic Web site: www.utahutes.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

4 8 5 10 12  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Kyle Whittingham, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0  
Assistant coaches: Gary Andersen (def. coord./def. line), Andy Ludwig (off. coord./QBs), Jay Boulware (TEs/co-STs), Charlie Dickey (off. line), Jay Hill (CBs/co-STs), Derrick Odum (safeties), Aaron Roderick (WRs), Dave Schramm (RBs/recruiting coord.), Kalani Sitake (ILBs)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 2	Arizona	23-6
S. 10	Utah State	48-6
S. 15	@TCU	
S. 22	Air Force	49-35
O. 1	@NORTH CAROLINA	46-16
O. 8	@COLORADO STATE	63-31
O. 15	San Diego State	51-28
O. 22	@UNLV	63-28
N. 5	Wyoming	45-28
N. 12	New Mexico	28-7
N. 19	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	52-21

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/22

### OFFENSE

QB	3 Brian Johnson (6-2, 203, So.)
TB	13 Quinton Ganther (5-10, 217, Sr.)
HB	6 Brent Casteel (5-11, 192, Fr.)
LT	78 Tavo Tupola (6-4, 290, Jr.)
LG	74 David Dirkmaat (6-7, 311, Sr.)
C	79 Jesse Boone (6-5, 303, Sr.)
RG	75 Eric Pettit (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	69 Jason Boone (6-3, 283, So.)
TE	81 Willie Sao (6-3, 280, Sr.)
WR	88 Travis LaTendresse (6-1, 194, Sr.)
WR	23 John Madsen (6-5, 220, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	55 Marquess Ledbetter (6-2, 265, Sr.)
NG	98 Kelly Talavou (6-1, 321, Jr.)
DT	94 Steve Fifita (6-0, 322, Sr.)
DE	42 Pate Molteni (6-2, 265, Fr.)
MLB	41 Grady Marshall (6-0, 225, Sr.)
SLB	38 Reggie Turner (6-1, 239, Jr.)
ROV	9 Spencer Toone (6-2, 235, Sr.)
LCB	5 Ryan Smith (5-10, 160, So.)
RCB	8 Eugene Oates (5-11, 183, Sr.)
FS	31 Casey Evans (6-0, 198, Jr.)
SS	32 Eric Weddle (6-0, 200, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	7 Bryan Borreson (5-10, 186, Sr.)
P	48 Dan Beardall (6-0, 198, Sr.)

## Strong up front on both sides of the ball, Utes will win MWC again sans Urban legend

**A**fter two years of Urban (Meyer) renewal at Utah, longtime assistant Kyle Whittingham takes the reins of a club boasting talent but facing a number of questions at key positions. The most obvious absences: Meyer, who authored a 12-0 campaign for the Utes last season before leaving for the University of Florida; and Heisman Trophy candidate Alex Smith, the all-everything quarterback who became the top pick in April's NFL Draft.

Despite the changes and departures—14 starters from last season's BCS squad are gone—Utah remains the class of the Mountain West Conference.

Most scrutiny will fall on the offense, which ranked third in the country in scoring last season. With Smith gone, the new quarterback is likely to be sophomore Brian Johnson, who handled mop-up duties during 10 games in 2004. Johnson's limited playing time as a true freshman offered flashes of versatility, including a 4.4-yards-per-carry average and 14 completions in 21 pass attempts.

Still, Johnson offers no guarantees—and has gigantic shoes to fill in replacing Smith.

While Johnson finds his footing, the Utes will likely turn to a veteran running corps that will be bolstered by a talented and deep offensive line. In the trenches, second-team all-conference center Jesse Boone anchors things up front. The 6-5, 303-pound senior is big, fast and impressive enough to warrant preseason consideration for the Rimington Trophy. Junior guard Eric Pettit, who started three games in 2004, moves to the right side from the left, replacing All-American Chris Kemoatu. Junior Paul Soliai may push Pettit for the job, while senior David Dirkmaat is slotted at left guard. Junior Tavo Tupola and sophomore Jason Boone (Jesse's brother) are the anticipated starters at left and right tackle, respectively.

With the blocking in good hands, senior Quinton Ganther (654 yards rushing, 6.0 per carry in 2004) leads a bevy of talented runners. Redshirt sophomore Mike Liti and USC transfer Darryl Poston, a senior, should also see plenty of action.

Newly-installed offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig, recruited from the Oregon staff, plans a gradual shift to his favored pro-style offense this season, hoping to incorporate some of Meyer's renowned spread schemes while also coping with a depleted receiving corps. Gone is all-conference wideout Steve Savoy, who decided to leave early for the NFL Draft but was not selected. Seniors John Madsen, the lone returning starter, and Travis LaTendresse, a medical hardship, will be the primary targets. A pair of game-tested seniors, Willie Sao and Blake Burdette, will share the work at tight end.

Don't expect many changes on defense, which the new head man, Whittingham, steered as coordinator for a decade. With his ascension to the top job, seven-year defensive line coach Gary Andersen takes over the Utes' 4-3 set as coordinator. Last season, Utah finished second in the Mountain West in scoring defense and total defense.

To repeat that performance, Utah must cope with the loss of six starters. Senior linebacker Spencer Toone leads the way. He posted a team-best 115 tackles last season, second best in the conference. Beyond Toone, though, the linebacking corps is inexperienced and lacking depth.

Things are better along the defensive line and in the secondary, where sophomore cornerback Ryan Smith should vie for all-conference honors. Senior Eugene Oates is the other corner, with second-team all-conference pick Eric Weddle at strong safety and former walk-on Casey Evans at free safety.

Senior Marquess Ledbetter (46 tackles, 4.5 sacks), who mans the Utes' open-end position, joins senior tackle Steve Fifita (an all-conference selection at nose guard in 2004) as leaders of the front four.

Special teams may prove adventurous this season, as the Utes must replace their starting kicker, punter and long snapper. Bryan Borreson, Dan Beardall and Brock Condie will try to fill the vacated roles, respectively.

—Erik Spanberg



ERIC WEDDLE, SS



LARAMIE, WYO.

# WYOMING COWBOYS



**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 3-4 MWC (beat UCLA in the Las Vegas Bowl, 24-21)

**Stadium:** War Memorial Stadium

**Turf:** Grass

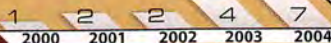
**Capacity:** 32,580

**Official athletic Web site:** www.wyomingathletics.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

2



**Head coach:** Joe Glenn, 3rd Year (11-13) **Career Record:** 169-72-1

**Assistant coaches:** Mike Breske (asst. head coach/def. coord./secondary), Marty English (LBs), Chris Knutsen (STs coord./DTs), Lance Robinson (def. line), Bill Cockhill (off. coord./QB), Bryan Applewhite (RBs), Chad Germer (OL), Harvey Patton (TEs), Ron Wisniewski (recruiting coord./WRs)

## Cowboys set to ride herd after clutch Las Vegas Bowl win over UCLA Bruins

**A** raft of returning stars, the lingering halo of a bowl win over UCLA and coach Joe Glenn's turnaround magic have made college football fans feel at home on the range once again.

A moribund program when Glenn arrived in January 2003—Wyoming won just two games during the prior season—the Cowboys are now poised for better days.

Start with those starters, a whopping 19 of them. With Glenn losing just five regulars from a 7-5 squad last season, expect Wyoming to give defending conference champs Utah a stiff test (the schools' Nov. 5 meeting in Salt Lake City could decide the Mountain West crown). The Cowboys aren't shying away from competition, either. Beyond the conference slate, Wyoming will make two trips to SEC schools, visiting Ole Miss and facing former foe Urban Meyer in the season opener at Florida.

Offensively, Wyoming should have little trouble maintaining, or improving upon, a scoring average of 26.5 points per game (third in the Mountain West) last season. Senior quarterback Corey Bramlet, the MVP of the Cowboys' Las Vegas Bowl upset of UCLA, returns after a stellar junior campaign. He threw for 2,409 yards and 12 touchdowns while also finishing as the team's third-leading rusher (209 yards, 4 TDs).

Bramlet should have time to throw—or run—as a solid offensive line returns four starters. Still, a gaping hole must be filled at center after the graduation of four-year letterman Trenton Franz. Senior Drew Severn and redshirt freshman Kyle Howard are vying to replace Franz. The remaining spots are set: junior Chase Johnson and Hunter Richards at tackle with senior Alan Erving and junior Jason Karcher handling guard duties.

A strong receiving corps returns, led by senior All-America candidate Jovon Bouknight (63 receptions for 1,075 yards and 7 TDs in 2004). Bouknight finished 15th in the nation in receiving yards and 27th in all-purpose yards (140 per game). Senior Josh Barge (23 catches for 310 yards) and junior Tyler Holden (27 receptions for 339 yards) are solid as well. Senior tight end John Wadkowski missed spring practice but is anticipated back in form for the regular season.

If there is a concern, it is at running back. Junior Ivan Harrison (587 yards on 159 carries)

and senior Joseph Harris (409 yards on 94 carries) both missed spring practice with injuries, but remain the projected rushing leaders.

On the other side of the ball, Wyoming boasts a strong secondary and a solid defensive line. The big question marks are at linebacker, where veterans Randy Tschanner and Guy Tuell must be replaced. Another key departure: defensive tackles (and four-year lettermen) Jacob Bonde and former team captain Zach Morris.

The Cowboys ranked third in the conference in scoring defense during 2004, but allowed a hefty 390.7 yards per game (sixth in the Mountain West). To improve on those numbers, Wyoming begins with a stellar secondary. Junior cornerback Derrick Martin (60 tackles, 3 INTs) ranked 14th in the nation in passes defended (interceptions plus pass breakups). He'll be joined by senior Terrance Butler (26 tackles, 4 INTs) on the other side. Junior free safety and All-America hopeful John Wendling led the Cowboys with 89 tackles a year ago, including three fumble recoveries and three interceptions. Senior Ron Rockett and junior Marcial Rosales both saw action last season and will battle for the other safety spot.

Spark plug Dusty Hoffschneider, a 5-8, 257-pound nose guard who fills his down time qualifying for NCAA wrestling meets, posted 59 tackles as a junior in 2004 and returns as the leader of the defensive line. Senior ends John Flora and Aaron Robbins return as well, with junior Jake Mayes the top candidate to replace Morris at tackle.

Both the middle and weakside linebacker positions will have new starters this season, with a number of contenders in the mix. The lone certainty: strongside is set with junior Austin Hall (20 tackles in 2004). Beyond Hall, the theme is questions, questions, questions.

Expect big things from the special-teams unit, which returns some of the conference's top performers at kicker (senior Deric Yaussi, who tallied 90 points in 2004, second best in the MWC), punter (senior Adam Brooks, 42.5 yards per punt) and returners (star receiver Bouknight handles kicks and averaged 22.9 yards per return, while sophomore Hoost Marsh posted a conference-best punt-return average of 13.5 yards).

—Erik Spanberg



COREY BRAMLET, QB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@FLORIDA	
S. 10	Louisiana-Monroe	31-10
S. 17	@AIR FORCE	43-26
S. 24	@MISSISSIPPI	37-32
O. 1	UNLV	53-45 (OT)
O. 8	TCU	
O. 15	New Mexico	9-16
O. 22	@COLORADO STATE	7-30
N. 5	@UTAH	28-45
N. 12	Brigham Young	13-24
N. 19	@SAN DIEGO STATE	20-10

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/13

### OFFENSE

QB	17	Corey Bramlet (6-4, 219, Sr.)
RB	2	Ivan Harrison (5-7, 190, Jr.)
LT	73	Chase Johnson (6-8, 325, Jr.)
LG	78	Alan Erving (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	75	Drew Severn (6-3, 301, Sr.)
RG	69	Jason Karcher (6-3, 304, Jr.)
RT	67	Hunter Richards (6-7, 287, Jr.)
TE	81	John Wadkowski (6-4, 259, Sr.)
WR	9	Jovon Bouknight (6-1, 191, Sr.)
WR	5	Tyler Holden (6-0, 175, Jr.)
WR	22	Josh Barge (6-0, 209, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	42	Aaron Robbins (6-4, 253, Sr.)
NG	58	Dusty Hoffschneider (5-8, 257, Sr.)
DT	97	Jake Mayes (6-3, 285, Jr.)
DE	43	John Flora (6-4, 267, Sr.)
WLB	31	Jeff Tatnall (5-11, 230, Sr.)
MLB	44	John Prater (6-2, 239, Jr.)
SLB	45	Austin Hall (6-2, 229, Jr.)
CB	3	Terrance Butler (6-1, 179, Sr.)
CB	1	Derrick Martin (5-11, 189, Jr.)
FS	23	John Wendling (6-1, 209, Jr.)
SS	12	Ron Rockett (6-1, 185, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	40	Deric Yaussi (5-11, 199, Sr.)
P	39	Adam Brooks (5-11, 190, Sr.)





# NEW MEXICO LOBOS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-2 MWC (lost to Navy in the Emerald Bowl, 34-19)

Stadium: University Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 38,634

Official athletic Web site: [www.golobos.com](http://www.golobos.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

3

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Rocky Long, 8th Year (40-45) Career Record: 40-45

Assistant coaches: Dan Dodd (off. coord.), Osia Lewis (def. coord./def. line), Everett Todd (STs/recruiting), Bob Bostad (off. line), Lenny Rodriguez (LBs), Jason Strauss (WRs/TEs), Grady Stretz (safeties), Tony Reffett (CBs), Cornell Jackson (RBs)



DONTRELL MOORE, TB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	UNLV	24-20
S. 10	@MISSOURI	
S. 17	New Mexico State	38-3
S. 24	@UTEP	
O. 1	@TCU	
O. 8	Brigham Young	21-14
O. 15	@WYOMING	16-9
O. 22	@SAN DIEGO STATE	19-9
O. 29	Colorado State	26-17
N. 12	@UTAH	7-28
N. 19	Air Force	23-28

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 43/20

### OFFENSE

QB	12	Kole McKamey (6-2, 208, Jr.)
FB	44	Adrian Byrd (6-1, 233, Sr.)
TB	22	DonTrell Moore (5-10, 208, Sr.)
ST	74	Patrick Hodges (6-5, 302, Jr.)
SG	59	Robert Turner (6-4, 328, Jr.)
C	63	Ryan Cook (6-7, 316, Sr.)
QG	64	Bo Greer (6-3, 318, Jr.)
QT	79	Terrance Pennington (6-7, 329, Sr.)
TE	82	Logan Hall (6-5, 257, Sr.)
WR	18	Hank Baskett (6-4, 220, Sr.)
WR	87	Anthony Carter (6-0, 180, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	94	Adam Garday (6-2, 253, Sr.)
NT	90	Marcus Parker (6-2, 269, Sr.)
RE	92	Evroy Thompson (6-0, 247, Sr.)
OLB	58	Michael Tuohy (6-2, 240, So.)
ILB	56	Mike Mohoric (6-3, 240, Sr.)
ILB	45	Joe Selander (6-2, 230, Sr.)
OLB	91	Quincy Black (6-3, 235, Jr.)
LCB	19	Jerrell Malone (6-1, 180, Sr.)
RCB	23	Gabriel Fulbright (5-10, 161, Sr.)
LS	7	Charles Brown (6-0, 203, Sr.)
RS	9	Tyson Ditmore (6-2, 200, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	80	Kenny Byrd (6-0, 172, Jr.)
P	25	Tyler Gaus (6-2, 205, Sr.)

## If dynamic All-America candidate Moore is 100 percent, Lobos will need less of everything else to win big

**S**hort of becoming a prime-time returnee as "Sheriff Lobo," Rocky Long has done just about everything possible to establish New Mexico as a perennial contender. Since 2002, only Utah has won more Mountain West Conference games than the Lobos. With an appearance in the Emerald Bowl last season, New Mexico notched its third straight postseason game, a first for the 106-year-old program.

Now Long must figure out what to do for an encore. He'll have 17 starters back for a run at projected conference leaders Utah and Wyoming, though a huge question mark looms over the Lobos heading into fall practice.

The question mark? All-everything senior running back DonTrell Moore, who, as of early May, was recovering from a knee injury suffered in the bowl game. Long didn't expect to have a definitive answer on when Moore's senior season would begin until August.

A 5-10, 208-pound runner with three 1,000-yard seasons to his credit (just five players in Division I-A history have notched four 1,000-yard campaigns), Moore, in many ways, is the Lobo offense. He gained 1,091 yards in 2004 and scored five TDs despite the bowl injury and a sprained knee earlier in the year. A combination of speed, quickness, field vision and fancy footwork, Moore is indispensable. If he can't return, the Lobos will struggle to replace him.

With or without Moore, New Mexico must get improved production from junior quarterback Kole McKamey. Hampered by concussions as well as inexperience last season, he improved as the year wore on, averaging 269 yards total offense—including 145 rushing—during the final two games.

McKamey should have time to throw and room to run as a deep offensive line returns. It includes senior all-conference center Ryan Cook and junior honorable-mention guard Robert Turner. Senior tackle Terrance Pennington also returns, with a number of candidates battling for the remaining starting spots.

If McKamey can throw, he'll have an inviting target in senior Hank Baskett (909 yards on 54 catches in 2004). Baskett, a 6-4, 220-pound high jump champion, poses nightmare matchup

problems for opponents. Seniors Anthony Carter and Chris Brawley should also contribute. Tight end will continue to be handled by committee, with senior Logan Hall, junior Curtis Pino and redshirt freshman Chris Mark all expected to see significant playing time.

On defense, New Mexico moved to a 3-4 alignment last season and flourished. The Lobos led the conference in rushing defense (108.2 yards per game), total defense (323.2), scoring defense (18.7 points per game) and sacks (42).

Repeating that performance won't be easy, particularly with a depleted linebacking corps. Departed stars Nick Speegle, Chrishone Harris and Fola Fashola—all linebackers—combined for 237 tackles in 2004. Senior inside linebacker Mike Mohoric is the lone returning starter. Junior Quincy Black will likely fill Fashola's former outside linebacker spot and, from there, it gets murky. In all, Long anticipates as many as six players will rotate at the four linebacker positions this season.

Prospects look better along the defensive front and in the secondary. Senior starters Marcus Parker (nose tackle) and Evroy Thompson (end) return, with another veteran, senior end Adam Garday, slotted for the spot vacated by Kyle Coulter.

Senior all-conference selection Gabriel Fulbright (5 INTs) returns at cornerback, but the Lobos will miss versatile performer Brandon Payne, who led the team with six picks during an outstanding senior campaign in 2004. Senior Jerrell Malone will try to replace Payne. At safety, three players with substantial game experience—seniors Charles Brown and Ken West and sophomore Tyson Ditmore—will battle for two starting positions.

Special teams offer a mixed bag, with the biggest hole at kicker, where two-time all-conference selection Wes Zunker must be replaced. Junior Kenny Byrd is the top candidate to do so. Fourth-year punter Tyler Gaus returns, as does sophomore deep snapper Jon O'Brien. As usual, the Lobos remain a punt-block threat, having knocked down 15 attempts since 2000, including two returned for touchdowns last season against Air Force.

—Erik Spanberg



# BRIGHAM YOUNG

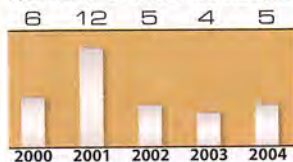
## COUGARS

4 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-3 MWC

Official athletic Web site: www.byucougars.com



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Boston College	
S. 10	Eastern Illinois	
S. 24	TCU	
O. 1	@SAN DIEGO STATE	49-16
O. 8	@NEW MEXICO	14-21
O. 15	Colorado State	31-21
O. 22	@NOTRE DAME	20-17
O. 29	Air Force	41-24
N. 5	@UNLV	20-24
N. 12	@WYOMING	24-13
N. 19	Utah	21-52

Head coach: Bronco Mendenhall,  
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 64,045

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	12 John Beck (6-2, 210, Jr.)
RB	6 Curtis Brown (6-0, 205, r-Jr.)
LT	59 Eddie Keele (6-5, 305, r-Jr.)
LG	78 Brian Sanders (6-3, 316, r-Sr.)
C	54 Lance Reynolds (6-3, 293, r-Sr.)
RG	76 Travis Bright (6-5, 315, r-Fr.)
RT	73 Jake Kuresa (6-5, 330, r-Jr.)
WR	1 Todd Watkins (6-3, 185, r-Sr.)
WR	2 Bryce Mahuika (5-10, 185, r-So.)
WR	10 Matt Allen (6-0, 185, r-So.)
WR	18 Joe Griffin (6-3, 210, r-Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	99 Manaia Brown (6-4, 310, r-Sr.)
NT	94 Vince Feula (6-1, 300, r-Sr.)
RE	46 Michael Marquardt (6-4, 260, r-Jr.)
LLB	52 Aaron Wagner (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
MLB	35 Cameron Jensen (6-2, 230, r-Jr.)
RLB	36 Markell Staffieri (6-3, 230, So.)
CGR	28 Dustin Gabriel (6-1, 202, r-So.)
LKB	24 Spencer White (6-1, 185, r-Sr.)
RKB	21 K.C. Bills (6-1, 220, r-So.)
LCB	13 Nate Soelberg (6-0, 172, r-Sr.)
RCB	34 Kayle Buchanon (6-1, 190, r-So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	27 Trent Williams (6-1, 193, r-So.)
P	93 Jared McLaughlin (6-5, 195, r-So.)

—Steve Silverman

# TEXAS CHRISTIAN

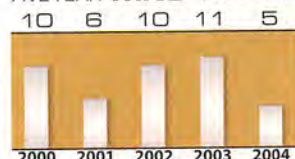
## HORNED FROGS



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Official athletic Web site: www.gofrogs.com

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@OKLAHOMA	
S. 10	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	44-0
S. 15	Utah	
S. 24	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
O. 1	New Mexico	
O. 8	@WYOMING	
O. 15	Army	21-17
O. 22	@AIR FORCE	
O. 29	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
N. 5	Colorado State	
N. 12	UNLV	

Head coach: Gary Patterson,  
5th Year (32-17)

Career Record: 32-17

Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 44,008

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/25

#### OFFENSE

QB	15 Tye Gunn (6-3, 218, Sr.)
FB	47 William Jackson (6-0, 237, So.)
TB	30 Lonta Hobbs (5-10, 220, Sr.)
LT	72 Michael Toudoze (6-6, 310, Sr.)
LG	62 Shane Sims (6-3, 290, Sr.)
C	69 Stephen Culp (6-4, 307, Sr.)
RG	61 Ben Angeley (6-5, 290, Sr.)
RT	78 Herbert Taylor (6-4, 287, Jr.)
TE	81 Chad Andrus (6-4, 246, Sr.)
WR	17 Cory Rodgers (6-1, 195, Jr.)
WR	19 Michael DePriest (6-0, 192, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	88 Ranorris Ray (6-3, 275, Sr.)
NT	57 Zarnell Fitch (6-4, 310, Sr.)
DT	90 Jared Kesler (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RE	97 Tommy Blake (6-3, 250, So.)
MLB	35 Andrew Ward (6-2, 232, Jr.)
SLB	46 David Hawthorne (6-0, 235, So.)
LCB	4 Quincy Butler (6-1, 190, Sr.)
RCB	11 Drew Coleman (5-11, 173, Sr.)
WS	25 Eric Buchanan (5-11, 196, Jr.)
FS	28 Jeremy Modkins (6-1, 198, Sr.)
SS	6 Brian Bonner (5-11, 203, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	13 Peter LoCoco (6-1, 201, Jr.)
P	40 Brian Cortney (6-4, 215, Jr.)

—Steve Silverman

After struggling to a 5-6 mark in their final season in Conference USA, the Horned Frogs hope to make a big impression in their opening act in the Mountain West.

Texas Christian had established itself as one of the most consistent teams in the nation in winning 37 games (and two conference titles) between 2000 and 2003. But the Horned Frogs lost their edge last year as their pass defense was abominable and the running game simply did not get the job done.

Coach Gary Patterson hopes to get things back on track with Tye Gunn behind center. While he has a world of talent, Gunn has had a difficult time staying healthy throughout his career.

Gunn has good passing skills and reads defenses extremely well. If he can stay upright, he should be able to put up some impressive numbers because wide receivers Cory Rodgers, Michael DePriest and Quintilly Harmon all have good speed and excellent receiving skills.

Running backs Lonta Hobbs and Robert Merrill have both had 1,000-yard seasons. However, they were troubled by injuries last year and Patterson can't be sure that they will return to form. Freshman Justin Watts had the best spring of all the TCU running backs.

The Frogs must replace three starters on the offensive line, but Herbert Taylor returns at right tackle and senior left guard Shane Sims will also be back.

On the defensive side, cornerbacks Drew Coleman and Quincy Butler struggled after moving up from the junior-college level last season. However, both appeared significantly better after very productive spring sessions.

If the corners are going to have good seasons in 2005, they will need significant help from the defensive line. End Tommy Blake is TCU's best pass rusher. He should get help on the other side from Ranorris Ray, who has started 16 games in his career.

Linebacker Martin Patterson moves on after leading the team in tackles the last two seasons. Look for Andrew Ward to step into a leadership role there. He made seven starts last year and appears to be the team's top middle linebacker in the TCU defense's 4-2-5 alignment.



# AIR FORCE

## FALCONS

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-4 MWC

Official athletic Web site: www.airforcesports.com



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@ Washington	
S. 10	San Diego State	31-37
S. 17	Wyoming	26-43
S. 22	@UTAH	35-49
O. 1	@COLORADO STATE	47-17
O. 8	@NAVY	21-24
O. 15	UNLV	27-10
O. 22	TCU	
O. 29	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	24-41
N. 5	Army	31-22
N. 19	@NEW MEXICO	28-23

Head coach: Fisher DeBerry,

22nd Year (161-94-1)

Career Record: 161-94-1

Stadium: Falcon Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 52,480

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 52/27

## OFFENSE

QB	5	Shaun Carney (5-9, 195, So.)
HB	16	Adam Fitch (6-0, 190, Sr.)
HB	18	Justin Handley (5-8, 175, Jr.)
LT	72	Robert Kraay (6-8, 285, Jr.)
LG	63	Pat Edwards (6-2, 260, Sr.)
C	56	Jon Wilson (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RG	69	Caleb Morris (6-2, 275, So.)
RT	57	Ross Weaver (6-7, 295, Sr.)
TE	91	Robert McMenomy (6-4, 235, Sr.)
WR	9	Jason Brown (6-4, 220, Sr.)
WR	85	Greg Kirkwood (6-2, 205, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	55	Gilberto Perez (6-3, 275, Jr.)
NG	88	Russ Mitscherling (6-3, 285, Sr.)
DE	78	Nelson Mitchell (6-1, 260, Sr.)
LB	26	Jared Baxley (6-0, 195, Jr.)
LB	44	Rick Ricciardi (6-1, 235, Jr.)
LB	7	Marcus Brown (6-2, 240, So.)
FAL	31	John Taibi (6-2, 205, Sr.)
FAL	27	Denny Poland (6-3, 225, Sr.)
CB	6	Chris Sutton (6-0, 180, Jr.)
SC	21	Mark Carlson (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	4	Julian Madrid (6-0, 200, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Scott Eberle (6-1, 200, Sr.)
P	30	Donny Heaton (6-2, 195, Sr.)

It wasn't business as usual for coach Fisher DeBerry and the Falcons last fall. Their 5-6 record marked just the third time in 21 seasons that a losing season has been posted in Colorado Springs, and the veteran coach is hoping the sting of that performance will light a fire for a return to form in 2005.

Following his last two losing years, DeBerry's teams went on to win at least eight games the next season.

The Falcons have nine starters returning on offense, including an exciting player in quarterback Shaun Carney, and a big, physical and veteran offensive line. Carney rushed for 596 yards and six touchdowns and threw for another 1,315 yards and 11 touchdowns last season. Tackle Ross Weaver leads an offensive line that returns all of its starters and should be the most consistent area of the team.

Their presence should assure that the Falcons' triple-option attack should be tough to stop.

Air Force is rebuilding at the running back, where the top four rushers from 2004 have moved on. Adam Fitch and junior Justin Handley figure to get most of the carries.

The Falcons are also starting over at wide receiver, where J.P. Waller and Alex Messerall have graduated and seniors Greg Kirkwood and Jason Brown are the likely replacements.

The key to whether AFA can finish in the upper echelon of the MWC is how much improvement a defense that returns five starters can make.

The defense was painfully bad last year, allowing 32.5 points per game and ranking 101st in run defense (200 yards per game).

Air Force needs nose guard Russ Mitscherling to return to form after he suffered several injuries last year. He will be joined by defensive end Gilberto Perez, who had 39 tackles in 2004 and looked very sharp in spring practice.

The Falcons could get a boost from redshirt-freshman linebacker Marcus Brown, who was the winner of the team's "Every Day, Every Play Award" in spring practice after earning a starting job.

Safety Mark Carlson is back after leading the team in tackles. He will be joined in the secondary by cornerback Chris Sutton, who had 65 tackles.

—Steve Silverman

# COLORADO STATE

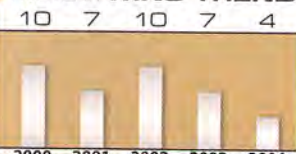
## RAMS

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-4 MWC

Official athletic Web site: www.csurams.com



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@COLORADO	24-27
S. 10	@MINNESOTA	16-34
S. 24	Nevada	
O. 1	Air Force	17-47
O. 8	Utah	31-63
O. 15	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	21-31
O. 22	Wyoming	30-7
O. 29	@NEW MEXICO	17-26
N. 5	@TCU	
N. 12	San Diego State	21-17
N. 19	@UNLV	45-10

Head coach: Sonny Lubick,

13th Year (95-51)

Career Record: 116-70

Stadium: Hughes Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 34,000

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/11

## OFFENSE

QB	8	Justin Holland (6-3, 201, Sr.)
HB	80	Kory Sperry (6-6, 210, So.)
RB	34	Kyle Bell (6-2, 210, So.)
WT	63	Mike Briseil (6-5, 300, Sr.)
WG	70	Brandon Alconcel (6-4, 263, Sr.)
C	77	Albert Bimper (6-1, 303, Sr.)
SG	76	Josh Day (6-4, 296, Jr.)
ST	71	Clint Oldenburg (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	92	Matt Bartz (6-3, 249, Sr.)
WR	4	David Anderson (5-11, 192, Jr.)
WR	85	Dustin Osborn (6-0, 194, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	86	Terrance Carter (6-3, 239, Sr.)
NT	99	Delroy Parke (6-2, 298, Sr.)
DT	97	Blake Smith (6-2, 290, So.)
RE	59	Jesse Nading (6-5, 243, So.)
WLB	9	Luke Adkins (6-2, 229, Jr.)
MLB	52	Courtney Jones (6-1, 323, Sr.)
SLB	2	Jahmal Hall (6-0, 183, Sr.)
LCB	6	Robert Herbert (6-1, 195, Jr.)
RCB	1	Brandon Cathy (5-10, 183, Jr.)
FS	30	Miles Kochaver (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	3	Ben Stratton (6-2, 210, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Kevin Mark (6-2, 180, Sr.)
P	8	Jimmie Kaylor (6-3, 194, So.)

If bouncing back to previous form seems to be the game plan for Air Force and Brigham Young, the same standard also applies to Colorado State.

After becoming the standard bearer in the Mountain West Conference, the Rams hit hard times with a 4-7 record in 2004—their first losing campaign in 11 years.

It clearly did not sit well with veteran coach Sonny Lubick. He knows he has a solid quarterback in Justin Holland, but he's intent on putting together a running game that will complement his quarterback's passing abilities.

The running back chores seemingly belong to instinctive and quick Kyle Bell. He appeared to take the lead for the starting spot over senior Jimmy Green and freshman Gartrell Johnson in the spring.

Holland was averaging better than 300 yards passing per game before he went down against San Diego State with a broken ankle. Athletic Caleb Hanie did a good job once Holland went down, and his running ability reminded CSU fans of former Rams signal-caller Bradlee Van Pelt.

Wide receiver David Anderson should be a star this year. He doesn't have impressive size or speed, but he runs precise routes and has great hands. Anderson will be joined by fellow wideout Dustin Osborn and H-back Kory Sperry. The offensive line returns four starters.

The defense has to get better after enduring a dreadful season. Five opponents scored at least 30 points on CSU and the Rams couldn't stop the run. They gave up 221.7 rushing yards per game and ranked 111th nationally in that department.

Eight starters return to the defensive lineup, including veteran safety standout Ben Stratton. The linebacking crew, which includes Courtney Jones, Jahmal Hall and Luke Adkins, should be the strength of this unit.

Lubick believes his defense lacked toughness a year ago. He tried to address that problem in spring practice, asking for at least 15 minutes of live hitting at the end of every practice—something he had never done in the past. It can only help a defense that is trying to regain the edge that once made it the scourge of the Mountain West.

—Steve Silverman



# SAN DIEGO STATE

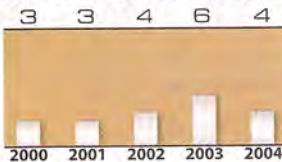
## AZTECS

4 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-5 MWC

Official athletic Web site: [www.goaztecs.com](http://www.goaztecs.com)



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	UCLA	10-33
S. 10	@AIR FORCE	37-31
S. 17	@OHIO STATE	
S. 24	San Jose State	
O. 1	Brigham Young	16-49
O. 8	@UNLV	21-3
O. 15	@UTAH	28-51
O. 22	New Mexico	9-19
O. 29	TCU	
N. 12	@COLORADO STATE	17-21
N. 19	Wyoming	10-20
D. 3	@HAWAII	

Head coach: Tom Craft,  
4th Year (14-22)

Career Record: 14-22

Stadium: Qualcomm Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 54,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/20

#### OFFENSE

QB	7 Kevin O'Connell (6-6, 215, So.)
HB	23 Fale Pomele (6-0, 245, Sr.)
RB	22 Lynell Hamilton (6-1, 220, Sr.)
LT	76 Will Robinson (6-6, 270, So.)
LG	63 Taylor Schmidt (6-4, 325, Sr.)
C	59 Nick Smith (6-6, 295, Jr.)
RG	78 Chris Pino (6-5, 330, Sr.)
RT	79 Robert Nelson (6-10, 320, Jr.)
TE	89 Lance Louis (6-3, 260, So.)
FL	1 Chazera Schilens (6-4, 200, So.)
SE	19 Jeff Webb (6-3, 200, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	93 Antwan Applewhite (6-3, 235, So.)
DT	99 Jonathan Bailles (6-1, 305, Jr.)
DT	55 Emil Metroka (6-3, 285, Jr.)
DE	97 Kurt Kahui (6-1, 245, Sr.)
WLB	36 Brett Martin (6-0, 215, So.)
MLB	33 Freddie Keiaho (6-0, 230, Sr.)
SLB	51 Joe Martin (6-1, 225, Jr.)
CB	3 Donny Baker (5-9, 170, Jr.)
CB	39 Jacob Elimian (5-11, 185, Sr.)
FS	21 Marcus Demps (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	31 Reggie Grigsby (5-11, 210, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	14 Garrett Palmer (6-2, 160, So.)
P	17 Michael Hughes (5-10, 170, So.)

New coaches at BYU (Bronco Mendenhall) and UNLV (Mike Sanford) are sure to get some time to establish themselves as legitimate Division I coaches. They can afford to be patient—at least for a couple of years.

The same cannot be said for San Diego State coach Tom Craft, who is 14-22 over the last four years and has been unable to get his team to play consistently. As a result, the pressure in the vice has increased to a very painful level.

The Aztecs are coming off a 4-7 season that again demonstrated the hallmark of San Diego State football under Craft: play strong teams well on the road but lose winnable games at home. That has to change in 2005 or it seems likely that his run with the Aztecs could come to an end.

He needs a great season from running back Lynell Hamilton, who ran for 1,087 yards in 2003 before tearing up a knee at the end of the season. Hamilton could not play last year, but he went through spring drills without a problem and declared himself ready to go.

Quarterback Kevin O'Connell was unable to play in the spring after undergoing shoulder surgery, but he should be ready come fall. If not, Craft will turn to veteran Matt Dlugolecki, who has started games in each of the past two seasons.

Wide receiver Jeff Webb is a two-time All-MWC pick who had 71 receptions for 863 yards and nine TDs last year.

The Aztecs return only three starters from a defense that gave up 25.6 points per game last year. Linebacker Kirk Morrison was a tackling machine and was selected by the Oakland Raiders in the third round of the NFL Draft.

Freddie Keiaho, redshirt freshman Andrew Schantz and junior Joe Martin all impressed Craft with their range and hitting ability in the spring and have a great chance at starting.

In the secondary, SDSU should get a lift from the return of Jacob Elimian, who played well in 2003 but sat out in 2004.

—Steve Silverman

# UNLV

## REBELS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-6 MWC

Official athletic Web site: [www.unlvrebels.com](http://www.unlvrebels.com)

After a 2-9 finish, John Robinson's final season on the UNLV sidelines was painful for a veteran coach who took a lot of pride in making the Rebels' football program newsworthy again.

Enter new coach Mike Sanford, who was Urban Meyer's offensive coordinator at Utah. Expect him to install the highly successful spread offense that the Utes used so well last year. Unfortunately for the Rebs, he won't have the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft, Alex Smith, to run it. Instead, Shane Steichen and junior-college transfer Jarrod Jackson will battle for that honor. Steichen appeared to gain an edge in spring practice.

Erick Jackson has the inside track on being the UNLV feature back. In limited duty last season, he ran for 154 yards and averaged five yards per carry. Wide receiver Donnell Wheaton appears to be the top outside threat, but he is unproven after catching just four passes last year. Tight end Greg Estandia is a huge target (6-8, 255 pounds) with soft hands and good speed.

Questions abound on the offensive line as injuries kept guard/tackle Marco Guerra (broken leg, knee), tackle Chris Bowser (two shoulder operations) and guard Zach Gorham (ankle) out of spring drills.

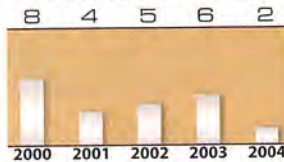
Quite a bit of work needs to be done on defense. The Rebels gave up 32.5 points per game last year, which ranked 98th in the nation. Former Air Force assistant Vic Shealy will take over the defense. His unit should at least be versatile, as the Rebs used both a 4-3 and a 3-4 in the spring.

UNLV returns just three starters from last year's starting defensive team. Shealy hopes he can build around nose guard Howie Fuimaono and end Leon Moore on the defensive line. They need to come through in a big way since the Rebels have lost playmakers like safety Jamal Brimmer and linebackers Adam Seward and Ryan Claridge. Seward and Claridge were fifth-round NFL draft picks.

Beau Bell played quite a bit as a freshman last year. He should become one of the starting linebackers this year and could be joined by senior Bobby Kelly, who looked good in the spring.

—Steve Silverman

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@NEW MEXICO	20-24
S. 10	Idaho	
S. 17	@NEVADA	48-13
S. 24	@UTAH STATE	21-31
O. 1	@WYOMING	45-53 (OT)
O. 8	San Diego State	3-21
O. 15	@AIR FORCE	10-27
O. 22	Utah	28-63
N. 5	Brigham Young	24-20
N. 12	@TCU	
N. 19	Colorado State	10-45

Head coach: Mike Sanford,  
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 36,800

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/23

#### OFFENSE

QB	15 Shane Steichen (6-4, 185, Jr.)
HB	24 Alvin Marshall (5-10, 190, Sr.)
TB	26 Erick Jackson (5-6, 180, Jr.)
LT	77 Chris Bowser (6-6, 280, Jr.)
LG	70 Marco Guerra (6-5, 315, Jr.)
C	55 Tim Goins (6-4, 280, So.)
RG	68 Zach Gorham (6-5, 315, Sr.)
RT	79 Jesse Knight (6-4, 265, Sr.)
TE	86 Greg Estandia (6-8, 255, Sr.)
WR	9 Donnell Wheaton (6-0, 185, Jr.)
WR	80 Casey Flair (6-1, 185, r-Fr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	98 Leon Moore (6-5, 285, Sr.)
NG	92 Howie Fuimaono (6-0, 320, Jr.)
RE	99 Mario Hill (6-2, 265, Sr.)
WLB	47 Beau Bell (6-3, 230, So.)
MLB	35 Dan Catalano (6-3, 230, Jr.)
SLB	34 Matt Pattison (6-3, 220, r-Jr.)
LCB	14 Ernest Gordon (6-1, 170, Jr.)
RCB	1 John Guice (5-9, 180, Jr.)
LS	45 Joe Miklos (6-2, 210, Sr.)
RS	8 Will Tagoai (6-3, 205, Sr.)
NICK	6 Chanti Bloomer (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS	
PK	10 Sergio Aguayo (6-1, 200, So.)
P	49 Brian Pacheco (5-11, 200, Jr.)





# MID AMERICAN CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

## EAST



## WEST

### Games to watch:

- >> **Miami at Northern Illinois**, Oct. 5  
Will this Wednesday contest preview the MAC Championship Game?
- >> **Bowling Green at Miami (Ohio)**, Nov. 15  
The first of two games in two days that will decide division races.
- >> **Northern Illinois at Toledo**, Nov. 16  
The Huskies look to win at Toledo for the first time since 1972.

official conference website:  
[www.mac-sports.com](http://www.mac-sports.com)

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

### Offense

QB	Omar Jacobs, Jr., Bowl. Green
RB	Brett Biggs, Sr., Akron
RB	Garrett Wolfe, Jr., N. Illinois
OL	Doug Free, Jr., Northern Illinois
OL	Rob Warren, Sr., Bowling Green
OL	Todd Londot, Sr., Miami
OL	Kory Lichtensteiger, So., BG/SU
OL	Ben Lueck, Sr., Northern Illinois
WR	Eric Deslauriers, Jr., E. Mich.
WR	Greg Jennings, Sr., W. Michigan
TE	Andrew Clarke, Sr., Toledo
PK	Andrew Wellock, Jr., E. Mich.

### Defense

DL	Don Bazuin, Jr., Cent. Michigan
DL	Quince Holman, Sr., N. Illinois
DL	Marcus Johnson, Sr., Miami
DL	Justin Parrish, Jr., Kent State
LB	John Busing, Sr., Miami
LB	Javan Lee, Sr., Northern Illinois
LB	Terna Nande, Sr., Miami
DB	Darrell Hunter, Sr., Miami
DB	Keon Jackson, Sr., Toledo
DB	Nigel Morris, So., Toledo
DB	Gemara Williams, Sr., Buffalo
P	Matt Miller, Sr., Ohio

## This year's race should hearken back to your father's old Mid-American

By Jon Wagner  
The Toledo Blade

As the Mid-American Conference prepares for the 2005 season, it also prepares to step forward into the past.

What does that mean? This season MAC football may start to more closely resemble the league your father remembers. To wit:

- Gone are carpetbaggers Marshall and Central Florida, both of whom were MAC members less than 10 seasons before bolting for Conference USA.
- Bowling Green returns to the MAC's East Division—and yearly games against longtime rivals such as Miami, Kent State and Ohio—after three seasons in the West.
- After seeing an unprecedented five schools play in postseason bowls, the MAC probably will return to its recent history of two bowl bids.
- The teams that normally find themselves at the top of the league probably will be battling for a berth in the MAC Championship Game this year as well.

In fact, the front-runners to win berths in the championship game, which is played at Detroit's Ford Field, are the two teams that clashed there last season: Miami and Toledo.

The RedHawks are the favorites in the East thanks in part to their recent dominance in MAC play. Miami has won 15 of its last 16 regular-season league games and back-to-back East crowns, and many of the players responsible for those gaudy numbers are back this fall.

The RedHawks' main competition will come from old/new East Division rival Bowling Green, which is coming off consecutive bowl bids for

the first time in more than 10 seasons. With record-setting quarterback Omar Jacobs returning, the Falcons will be able to outscore almost anyone on their schedule.

In the West the favorite is defending champ Toledo. The Rockets were a trendy preseason pick for the Top 25 early last season, but plenty of ankles were turned jumping off the bandwagon after Toledo surrendered 63 points in their first two games.

With a lighter bandwagon, the Rockets bounced back to rip off eight wins in their next nine games to post their 11th straight winning season and third bowl appearance in the last four years. Injuries to star quarterback Bruce Gradkowski and tailback Scooter McDougale played a key role in Toledo's misleading loss to Connecticut in the Motor City Bowl.

The Rockets' chief rival will be Northern Illinois, which has shared the division crown in three of the past four seasons. But the Huskies have struggled head-to-head against Toledo and probably will need to beat the Rockets on the road for the first time since 1972 to claim NIU's first MAC Championship Game berth.

Don't expect this "blast from the past" to last long, however. Changes facing the MAC in the near future are Temple's entry into the league as a full member in 2007, as well as a new bowl based in Toronto offering the league a third bowl bid.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	Ryne Robinson, Miami
Best hands	Eric Deslauriers, WR, Eastern Michigan
Best passing QB	Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green
Best option QB	Jebari Arthur, Akron
Most elusive RB	Jerry Seymour, Central Michigan
Best instincts	Greg Jennings, WR, Western Michigan
Best athlete	Terna Nande, LB, Miami
Best under pressure	Bruce Gradkowski, QB, Toledo
Top NFL prospect	Darrell Hunter, DB, Miami
Top impact freshman	Nick Moore, WR, Toledo
Hardest hitter	Brett Biggs, RB, Akron
Biggest underachiever	Anthony Sherrell, RB, Eastern Michigan

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	Gregg Brandon, Bowling Green
Best recruiter	J.D. Brookhart, Akron
Coach on the spot	Jim Hofher, Buffalo

### Don't be surprised if ...

New coach Bill Cubit engineers a big turnaround at Western Michigan. History shows the MAC's most successful rookie coaches are those who have talented quarterbacks and receivers, and Cubit has that with his son Ryan throwing to Greg Jennings.

### One man's opinion

"I really like the way he plays. Ray plays like he has stuck his finger in an electrical socket. He makes things happen."  
—Northern Illinois coach Joe Novak on NIU strong safety Ray Smith

### Rating the recruits

- 1. Akron**  
SuperPrep says Zips signed three 3-star recruits. Rest of MAC? Only two.
- 2. Northern Illinois**  
Well-rounded class plucked mainly from Chicago area.
- 3. Central Michigan**  
The chance to play right away was enticing, but just seven Michigan players.
- 4. Toledo**  
Nine states and one Canadian province represented, with five Florida recruits.
- 5. Ohio**  
Solich's first class has 12 Ohioans—and one Nebraskan.
- 6. Western Michigan**  
Florida athlete E.J. Biggers the "big" prize in this class.
- 7. Bowling Green**  
Rhett Wagner signed to replace do-everything brother Cole, who graduated.
- 8. Kent State**  
J.C. quarterback Michael Machen expected to have an immediate impact.
- 9. Buffalo**  
Eighteen of 25 recruits will start their careers on offense.
- 10. Ball State**  
Tough to match previous year's class, which included MAC Freshman of the Year.
- 11. Eastern Michigan**  
Solid class drawn mainly from Michigan (11 players).
- 12. Miami**  
Small class (13 players) hurt recruiting ranking.



Andrew Wellock,  
Eastern Michigan



OXFORD, OHIO

# MIAMI REDHAWKS



004 Record: 8-5 overall, 7-1 MAC (lost to Iowa State in the Independence Bowl, 17-13)

tadium: Yager Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 27,000

fficial athletic Web site: www.muredhawks.com



## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

1

6 7 7 13 8  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Shane Montgomery, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0

Assistant coaches: Taver Johnson (def. coord.), DeAndre Smith (running game coord./RBs), Brian Von Bergen (passing game coord./WRs), Craig Aukerman (LBs), Tim Cooper (def. backs), Matt Hohman (off. line), Jay Hood (def. line), Bret Ingalls (tackles/TEs), Rusty Wright (special teams coord./def. asst.)



MARCUS JOHNSON, DL

## RedHawks shouldn't skip a beat under new coach as 15 senior starters return from last year's bowl team

**W**hen RedHawks Athletics Director Brad Bates made the announcement that Shane Montgomery would replace Terry Hoepfner as head coach, he did so in an unusual manner.

Bates told the world the news in the Miami locker room prior to last year's Independence Bowl—with ESPN cameras capturing the moment.

While Montgomery, who spent the past four seasons as the team's offensive coordinator, can thank Bates for the promotion, he can also thank Hoepfner for leaving the cupboard full for another run at a MAC championship.

Miami returns 15 senior starters, including eight two-year starters, as it hunts for its 12th consecutive winning season and third straight bowl bid.

The offense returns quarterback Josh Betts, who threw for 3,495 yards and 23 TDs in his first year replacing Ben Roethlisberger, as well as four of five starters on the offensive line and the squad's top four receivers.

Todd Londot, a four-year starter who has been named second-team All-MAC each of the past two seasons, will anchor the line from the center position with help from three-year starter Mark Kracium at left tackle and 337-pound Nate Bunce, a three-year regular who moves to right guard.

The wide receiver position will benefit from the return of Martin Nance, who played in only five games last season before suffering a season-ending injury.

The only question mark on offense for the RedHawks is at running back, where their two top runners were lost to graduation. Sophomore Brandon Murphy, who ran for 248 yards and four scores on just 48 carries last year, is the front-runner for that position.

Seven starters return on defense, led by three returning senior starters at linebacker in John Busing, Terna Nande and Derek Rehage, a trio that combined for 258 tackles last season. Depth isn't a problem here, either, as five of the top six players are seniors and the sixth is a junior.

First-team All-MAC senior Marcus Johnson leads the defensive line from his end position, while Jarrod Rich also is back at right tackle.

The secondary will be the big question for the RedHawks after the loss of two All-MAC players to graduation. Senior Darrell Hunter will be expected to lead at cornerback, while safeties Steve Burke and Joey Card are recovering from injuries.

On special teams the player to watch is junior Ryne Robinson, whose two punt returns for touchdowns in '04 gave him five in two seasons.



JOSH BETTS, QB

## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@OHIO STATE	
S. 10	Central Michigan	
S. 17	@KENT STATE	47-27
S. 28	Cincinnati	26-45
O. 5	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
O. 15	Akron	37-27
O. 22	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
O. 29	@TEMPLE	
N. 5	Buffalo	25-7
N. 15	Bowling Green	
N. 21	@OHIO	40-20

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/16

### OFFENSE

QB	8	Josh Betts (6-3, 219, Sr.)
TB	24	Brandon Murphy (5-8, 189, So.)
LT	75	Mark Kracium (6-5, 286, Sr.)
LG	72	Steve Meister (6-2, 293, So.)
C	62	Todd Londot (6-7, 308, Sr.)
RG	79	Nate Bunce (6-7, 337, Sr.)
RT	76	Charlie Norden (6-6, 314, So.)
TE	89	Dan Tyler (6-5, 244, Sr.)
WR	82	R.J. Corbin (6-1, 203, Jr.)
WR	15	Martin Nance (6-5, 215, Sr.)
WR	2	Ryne Robinson (5-10, 169, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	93	Marcus Johnson (6-3, 260, Sr.)
LT	65	John Glavin (6-0, 278, Sr.)
RT	44	Jarrod Rich (6-3, 267, Sr.)
RE	58	Craig Mester (6-5, 242, So.)
OLB	12	John Busing (6-4, 228, Sr.)
MLB	38	Derek Rehage (6-2, 239, Sr.)
OLB	32	Terna Nande (6-1, 228, Sr.)
CB	21	Ryan Redd (5-10, 183, Sr.)
CB	28	Darrell Hunter (6-1, 213, Sr.)
FS	36	Steve Burke (6-0, 187, Sr.)
SS	1	Joey Card (6-0, 197, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	35	Todd Soderquist (6-2, 210, Sr.)
P	4	Jacob Richardson (6-1, 189, Fr.)

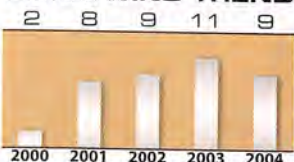


# BOWLING GREEN

## FALCONS

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 MAC  
(beat Memphis in the GMAC Bowl, 52-35)  
Official athletic Web site: www.bgsufalcons.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@WISCONSIN	
S. 10	@BALL STATE	51-13
S. 21	@BOISE STATE	
O. 1	Temple	70-16
O. 8	Ohio	41-16
O. 15	@BUFFALO	
O. 22	Western Michigan	52-0
O. 29	Akron	
N. 5	@KENT STATE	
N. 15	@MIAMI (OH)	
N. 22	Toledo	41-49

Head coach: Gregg Brandon,  
3rd Year (20-6)

Career Record: 20-6

Stadium: Doyt Perry Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 28,599

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 50/19

## OFFENSE

QB	4 Omar Jacobs (6-4, 224, r-Jr.)
TB	33 P.J. Pope (5-9, 216, Sr.)
LT	58 Rob Warren (6-6, 296, Sr.)
LG	78 Kory Lichtensteiger (6-3, 300, r-So.)
C	68 John Lanning (6-4, 294, r-Jr.)
RG	70 Derrick Markray (6-5, 341, r-Jr.)
RT	71 Drew Nystrom (6-5, 304, r-So.)
TE	88 Sean O'Drobinak (6-4, 248, r-So.)
WR	1 Charles Sharon (6-1, 178, Sr.)
WR	12 Steve Sanders (6-3, 201, Sr.)
WR	6 Brandon Jones (6-0, 167, r-Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	92 Brad Williams (6-3, 259, r-Jr.)
NG	77 Mike Thaler (6-1, 281, Sr.)
DT	91 Monte Cooley (6-2, 276, Sr.)
DE	57 Devon Parks (6-3, 239, Jr.)
WLB	5 Teddy Piepkow (6-0, 228, Sr.)
MLB	56 Jamien Johnson (6-1, 232, Sr.)
SLB	48 Terrel White (5-10, 232, r-Jr.)
CB	20 Terrill Mayberry (5-11, 169, Sr.)
CB	2 Jelani Jordan (5-10, 177, Sr.)
FS	25 Tim Arnold (5-9, 200, Sr.)
SS	31 Mike Crumpler (5-11, 191, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	87 Josef Timchenko (6-4, 221, Sr.)
P	46 Nate Fry (5-10, 211, Sr.)

Last season the Falcons were faced with the task of replacing one of the most prolific quarterbacks in the program's history when do-everything signal-caller Josh Harris was drafted into the NFL.

Problem? No problem.

Omar Jacobs, only a sophomore, stepped forward and became the MAC's Offensive Player of the Year. He led the nation with 41 touchdown passes while throwing just four interceptions, finishing with 4,002 yards passing and helping the Falcons set a MAC record by averaging 44.3 points per game.

After that, replacing five starters on offense and five more on defense doesn't seem quite so daunting, does it?

Yes, there are holes on both sides of the ball. On offense, the biggest gaps are on the offensive line, where All-MAC performer Scott Mruczkowski and two other starters were lost to graduation. But the two returnees, Kory Lichtensteiger and Rob Warren, both earned all-league honors last fall.

Jacobs will have two of his favorite pass-catching targets back in seniors Charles Sharon, who set a school record with 15 TD receptions, and Steve Sanders, who averaged nearly 18 yards per catch.

Two-time all-league back P.J. Pope also returns for his senior season after back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons. Last year he also caught 50 passes, and his 126 points tied for most in the conference.

Plugging the gaps on defense won't be quite so easy, though. Four of the five players lost earned All-MAC honors last season, and among the missing are three of the team's top four tacklers.

The Falcons return plenty of experience on the defensive line, including two-year starters Mike Thaler, a two-time team captain, and Devon Parks, who tied for the team lead with four sacks.

Teddy Piepkow is the only returning linebacker; senior Jamien Johnson and junior Terrel White have experience, but now will be expected to step up their level of play as first-time starters.

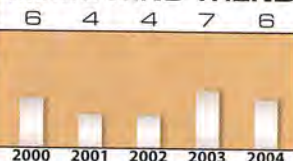
The defensive backfield returns two starters in cornerbacks Terrill Mayberry and Jelani Jordan.

# AKRON

## ZIPS

2004 Record: 6-5 overall, 6-2 MAC  
Official athletic Web site: www.goazips.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	@PURDUE	
S. 17	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST.	24-31
S. 24	Northern Illinois	19-49
O. 1	Central Michigan	
O. 8	@BUFFALO	44-21
O. 15	@MIAMI (OH)	27-37
O. 22	Army	
O. 29	@BOWLING GREEN	
N. 5	@BALL STATE	35-23
N. 15	Ohio	31-19
N. 23	Kent State	24-19

Head coach: J.D. Brookhart,  
2nd Year (6-5)

Career Record: 6-5

Stadium: Rubber Bowl

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 31,000

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19

## OFFENSE

QB	16 Luke Getsy (6-2, 220, Jr.)
FB	22 Richard Spaulding (6-2, 220, Sr.)
RB	34 Brett Biggs (5-9, 190, Sr.)
LT	72 Tim Crouch (6-3, 290, Jr.)
LG	75 Mike Donaldson (6-5, 295, Jr.)
C	63 Andy Willis (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG	57 Andy Alleman (6-4, 292, Jr.)
RT	76 Justin Hein (6-5, 315, Sr.)
TE	84 Kris Kasperek (6-6, 265, So.)
WR	81 Jason Montgomery (5-11, 170, Sr.)
WR	23 Domenik Hixon (6-2, 192, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	99 Jermaine Reid (6-4, 270, Jr.)
NG	97 Kiki Gonzalez (6-2, 300, Sr.)
DT	48 Brian White (6-2, 275, Sr.)
BAN	90 Kevin Grant (6-2, 235, r-Fr.)
SLB	35 Jay Rohr (5-11, 220, Sr.)
MLB	52 Bryan Howe (6-0, 230, So.)
ROV	7 Parris McNeal (6-0, 200, Jr.)
CB	29 Reggie Corner (5-9, 175, Jr.)
CB	20 Dionte Henry (5-11, 191, Jr.)
FS	27 Dion Elie (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	10 Chevin Pace (5-10, 190, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	36 Jason Swiger (5-8, 180, Sr.)
P	14 Bill Sullivan (5-11, 179, Sr.)

After four years engineering the Zips' offense—and setting nearly every passing record in school history—quarterback Charlie Frye has taken his talents to the NFL.

And while it might sound crazy, coach J.D. Brookhart and his staff might turn to a wide receiver as Frye's replacement.

Actually, that isn't as crazy as it sounds. That wide receiver is sophomore Jabari Arthur, a talented athlete who ran pass routes last fall while serving as Frye's backup. Arthur, who caught more passes (23) than he threw (9) last season, will be challenged by junior Luke Getsy. Getsy transferred to Akron from Pittsburgh, where he played in nine games as a sophomore and was coached by Brookhart.

Whoever wins the starter's job will have a strong group of receivers as targets, led by seniors Domenik Hixon (66 catches, 882 yards, 6 TDs) and Jason Montgomery (42, 466, 4).

The quarterback situation will push the Zips to focus more on ball control, which will give senior running back Brett Biggs a bigger role in the offense. Last season the junior-college transfer finished with nearly 1,500 all-purpose yards.

Akron will also have to replace four of its five starters on the offensive line from last year, with only left tackle Tim Crouch returning.

The defense also may prove to be an interesting riddle for Brookhart, who last year came within a game of steering the Zips to the MAC Championship contest and earned the league's Coach of the Year award. While seven starters are back on defense, the losses include the team's top three tacklers.

The team's strength on that side of the ball will be its secondary, which is led by sophomore strong safety Chevin Pace and returns all four starters. Kiki Gonzalez, a 300-pound nose guard in his third year as a starter, will be flanked by returning starter Brian White and junior Jermaine Reid.

Akron will be young and inexperienced at linebacker. Senior Jay Rohr is the only returning starter, and his experience is limited to the final five games of last season. Sophomore Bryan Howe and redshirt freshman Kevin Grant will be asked to step forward and play significant roles.



4

PRESEASON RANK

## KENT STATE

## GOLDEN FLASHES

KENT, OHIO



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.kentstatesports.com

Which team is it?

Will this year's Golden Flashes look like the team that took the field for the first part of last season? That squad went 0-6, with its only victory coming against Division I-AA squad, and gave up an average of more than 30 points a game.

Or will the Flashes more closely resemble the team that finished the season with a four-game winning streak? That team outscored its opponents 185-64 in building the school's longest win streak in almost 30 years.

To make sure it isn't the former, Kent State will need several pieces to fall into place. The biggest piece is at quarterback, where the current group of signal-callers has thrown a combined four passes for the Golden Flashes.

The development of Michael Machen, a junior-college transfer who originally attended Alabama, is critical following the graduation of All-MAC quarterback Joshua Cribbs.

There is also a question at running back, where Luke Tillman has been moved from tight end and Jon Drager looks to bounce back from a knee injury that cost him all of last season.

Kent State's six returnees on offense are spread between wide receiver, where both Derrick Bush and Najah Pruden are back, and the offensive line, where three-year regular Daniel Carter anchors a group of four returning starters.

Seven starters return on defense in hopes of continuing last year's turnaround. "Buck" linebacker Justin Parrish is back after setting a school record with 14 sacks, while fellow senior Jon Sessler was second on the team with 77 tackles.

A key for the Flashes will be how Bruce Rice adapts in switching from a down position to the middle linebacker spot as a replacement for All-MAC performer Eric Mahl.

5

PRESEASON RANK

## BUFFALO

## BULLS

BUFFALO, N.Y.



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ubathletics.buffalo.edu

It would be easy to say this is a make-or-break season for Bulls coach Jim Hofher. Truth is, 2005 is a make-or-break season for the entire Buffalo football program.

The Bulls have posted a 9-59 record since entering the MAC in 1999 and have just six league wins in six seasons. Hofher, who is 7-39 in four seasons building the program, received a contract extension in April, but is signed only through 2006.

But Hofher knows the time is now for the Bulls to produce. This season Buffalo features 20 seniors and has 16 returning starters who have started a whopping 369 games in their careers. What's more, the Bulls need look no farther than the school's basketball team, which came within a whisker of winning the league title, for proof that success in the MAC is possible.

Buffalo's newfound combination of depth and senior leadership is best modeled by its defense, particularly on the line. The Bulls have six seniors back up front on a group that has combined for 109 career starts. Ends Phil Jacques, a three-year starter, and Aaron Sanders, who had 12 tackles for loss and three recovered fumbles, will lead the way.

Two seniors, Bryan Cummings and Rich Sanders, return at linebacker after combining for 142 stops last season in the Bulls' 4-2-5 scheme. "Whip" linebacker James Vann is also back, as are starting cornerbacks James Evans and Gemara Williams.

In all, there are nine defensive starters returning, with depth coming from sources such as senior Aaron Leeper. Leeper moved from running back to corner in the spring of 2004, but missed last season because of a summer shoulder injury.

Seven starters return on offense, a unit that would be even more experienced if quarterback P.J. Piskorik and center Eric Weber hadn't been lost to academics. The loss of Piskorik is painful, since it leaves the QB position so inexperienced.

## DATE OPPONENT

S. 3	@MICHIGAN STATE
S. 10	Southeast Missouri State
S. 17	Miami (OH)
S. 24	@OHIO
O. 1	@EASTERN MICHIGAN
O. 15	@NAVY
O. 22	Northern Illinois
O. 29	@WESTERN MICHIGAN
N. 5	Bowling Green
N. 12	Buffalo
N. 23	@AKRON

## Head coach:

Doug Martin,  
2nd Year (5-6)  
Career Record: 5-6

## Stadium:

Dix Stadium  
Turf: Artificial  
Capacity: 29,287

## DATE OPPONENT

S. 1	@CONNECTICUT
S. 10	@SYRACUSE
S. 17	Rutgers
O. 1	@WESTERN MICHIGAN
O. 8	Akron
O. 15	Bowling Green
O. 22	@TOLEDO
O. 29	Ohio
N. 5	@MIAMI (OH)
N. 12	@KENT STATE
N. 19	Eastern Michigan

## Head coach:

Jim Hofher,  
5th Year (7-39)  
Career Record: 51-75

## Stadium:

University of Buffalo Stadium  
Turf: Grass  
Capacity: 31,000

6

PRESEASON RANK

## OHIO

## BOBCATS

ATHENS, OHIO



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ohiobobcats.com

Frank Solich was named the Bobcats' new coach last December, and the excitement around Athens, Ohio, is palpable.

Inside the program, players improved their work habits during offseason conditioning workouts, and spirits were raised during spring drills. Off the field, ticket sales were up, as was statewide interest in the Bobcats.

The change is simple to explain: Solich won 58 games in six seasons at Nebraska, leading the Cornhuskers to six bowl berths. The Ohio program would have to include all of its victories since 1987—a span of 18 seasons—to equal Solich's win total, and the school hasn't been to a bowl game since 1968.

While the change in attitude may be easy to understand, changing the fortunes of the Bobcats on the field probably will prove to be a little more difficult. Ohio has needs on both sides of the ball that will limit its ability to close the gap between it and the East's top teams.

Six starters are back on offense, but among the missing are the Bobcats' starting quarterback, top receiver and second-leading rusher.

Quarterback Austin Everson has seen considerable action in the past two seasons and has shown the ability to run the option attack Solich favors. Like Everson, Calvin McRae will also be asked to step up his game and give Ohio a dependable feature back after rushing for 559 yards last season.

The offensive line has two returnees Solich will look to build around in guards Matt Coppage and Matt Miller.

On defense, eight starters are back, but among the missing are three of the Bobcats' top four tacklers. The new coaching staff has also switched to a 4-3 alignment, and a new emphasis on speed will determine how many of those eight see regular action this fall.

## DATE OPPONENT

S. 3	@NORTHWESTERN
S. 10	Pittsburgh
S. 17	@VIRGINIA TECH
S. 24	Kent State
O. 8	@BOWLING GREEN
O. 15	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN
O. 22	Ball State
O. 29	@BUFFALO
N. 4	Toledo
N. 15	@AKRON
N. 21	Miami (OH)

## Head coach:

Frank Solich,  
1st Year (0-0)  
Career Record: 58-19

## Stadium:

Peden Stadium  
Turf: Artificial  
Capacity: 24,000





BRUCE GRADKOWSKI, QB

# TOLEDO ROCKETS

TOLEDO, OH

2004 Record: 9-4 overall, 7-1 MAC (lost to Connecticut in the Motor City Bowl, 39-10)

Stadium: Glass Bowl

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 26,248

Official athletic Web site: www.utrockets.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Tom Amstutz, 5th Year (36-15) Career Record: 36-15

Assistant coaches: John Shannon (off. coord.), Tim Rose (def. coord.), Mike Devlin (off. line), Doug Downing (RBs), Chris Hedden (TEs), Randall McCray (LBs), David Walkosky (OLBs), Dennis Winston (def. line), Jon Carr (WRs)



## Despite losing both coordinators, Rockets up to task of defending title

**I**t's a simple fact of college football life: teams lose key contributors after every season. And so it is with the Rockets, who must replace eight starters and 14 letter-winners from last season's MAC champions.

But two other important contributors—offensive coordinator Rob Spence and defensive coordinator Lou West—are gone as well. And Toledo's chances of repeating as West champs may hinge more on how well their replacements perform than on the new players taking the field.

John Shannon, the Rockets' receivers coach last season, takes over on offense for Spence, who left to become offensive coordinator at Clemson. So, change there will be limited. Of course, who would change an offense that averaged 459.2 yards and 33.2 points per game a season ago?

Six starters from that productive offense return, led by senior quarterback Bruce Gradkowski. Last year Gradkowski completed more than 70 percent of his passes for the second straight season, throwing for 3,518 yards and 27 scores.

Losing All-MAC receiver Lance Moore is a blow, but junior Steve Odom has caught 115 passes the past two seasons and is a capable

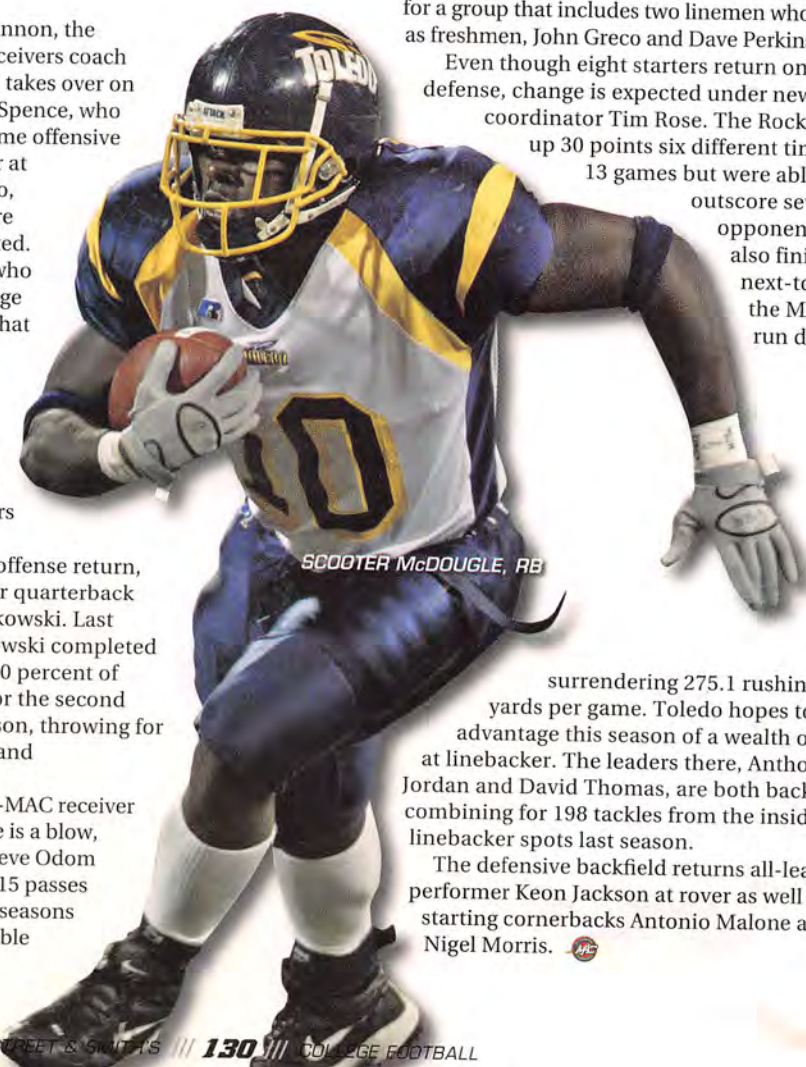
alternative. Senior Andrew Clarke, an all-league pick two years who missed last season following a hip injury, also provides a talented outlet for Gradkowski's passes.

There is plenty of talent at running back, led by 220-pound jackhammer Scooter McDougle, while seniors Trinity Dawson and Quinton Broussard could start for most other MAC teams.

The offensive line will be without four-time All-MAC pick Nick Kaczur and David Odenthal, but senior Chris Wakeman should provide leadership for a group that includes two linemen who started as freshmen, John Greco and Dave Perkins.

Even though eight starters return on defense, change is expected under new coordinator Tim Rose. The Rockets gave up 30 points six different times in 13 games but were able to

outscore several opponents. They also finished next-to-last in the MAC in run defense,



SCOOTER McDOUGLE, RB

surrendering 275.1 rushing yards per game. Toledo hopes to take advantage this season of a wealth of talent at linebacker. The leaders there, Anthony Jordan and David Thomas, are both back after combining for 198 tackles from the inside linebacker spots last season.

The defensive backfield returns all-league performer Keon Jackson at rover as well as starting cornerbacks Antonio Malone and Nigel Morris.

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Western Illinois	
S. 10	Western Michigan	59-33
S. 17	@TEMPLE	45-17
S. 27	@FRESNO STATE	
O. 8	Eastern Michigan	42-32
O. 15	@BALL STATE	52-14
O. 22	Buffalo	
O. 29	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	27-22
N. 4	@OHIO	31-13
N. 16	Northern Illinois	31-17
N. 22	@BOWLING GREEN	49-41

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/14

#### OFFENSE

QB	7	Bruce Gradkowski (6-2, 210, Sr.)
RB	10	Scooter McDougle (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LT	79	John Greco (6-5, 315, So.)
LG	64	Dave Perkins (6-2, 290, So.)
C	70	Hassan Adebisin (6-2, 292, Jr.)
RG	76	Chris Wakeman (6-5, 290, Sr.)
RT	63	Jerry Aguwa (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	86	Josh Powell (6-5, 240, Jr.)
WR	5	Trumaine Smith (6-3, 180, r-Fr.)
WR	22	Pete Lepley (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	80	Steve Odom (5-10, 165, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	57	Bernard Faithful (6-3, 225, So.)
DT	96	J.P. Bekasiak (6-5, 272, Jr.)
DT	61	Tyree Pollard (6-4, 310, So.)
DE	92	Sean Williamson (6-2, 287, So.)
WLB	15	Mike Chamberlain (6-2, 196, Jr.)
ILB	40	Anthony Jordan (6-3, 230, Sr.)
ILB	8	David Thomas (6-2, 230, Sr.)
ROV	6	Keon Jackson (5-11, 206, Sr.)
CB	30	Antonio Malone (6-1, 186, Sr.)
CB	37	Nigel Morris (6-0, 164, r-So.)
FS	28	Tyrell Herbert (6-2, 180, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	24	Jason Robbins (5-10, 158, Sr.)
P	41	Brett Kern (6-3, 185, So.)



# NORTHERN ILLINOIS

## HUSKIES

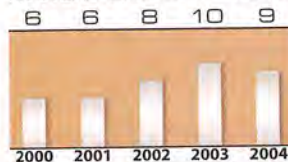
Record: 9-3 overall, 7-1 MAC

Troy in the Silicon Valley Classic, 34-21

Official athletic Web site: www.niuhuskies.com



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@MICHIGAN	
S. 10	@NORTHWESTERN	
S. 17	Tennessee Tech	
S. 24	@AKRON	49-19
O. 5	Miami (OH)	
O. 15	Eastern Michigan	34-16
O. 22	@KENT STATE	
O. 29	Ball State	38-31 (OT)
N. 5	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	42-10
N. 16	@TOLEDO	17-31
N. 22	Western Michigan	59-38

Head coach: Joe Novak,  
10th Year (47-55)

Career Record: 47-55

Stadium: Huskie Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 28,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/21

#### OFFENSE

QB	3	Phil Horvath (6-2, 200, Jr.)
TB	1	Garrett Wolfe (5-7, 174, Jr.)
LT	62	Doug Free (6-6, 290, Jr.)
LG	79	Ben Lueck (6-4, 310, Sr.)
C	65	Brian Van Acker (6-4, 287, Sr.)
RG	68	Jake Ebenhoch (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	58	George Daglas (6-4, 286, Sr.)
TE	86	Jake Nordin (6-4, 253, Jr.)
SE	84	Sam Hurd (6-2, 187, Sr.)
FL	5	Marcus Perez (5-10, 170, So.)
WR	87	Brandon Davis (6-3, 260, So.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	96	Quince Holman (6-3, 261, Sr.)
NT	98	Eric Pittman (6-2, 272, Jr.)
DT	92	Adam Schroeder (6-4, 277, So.)
RE	34	Ken West (6-3, 235, Jr.)
WLB	47	Javan Lee (6-2, 222, Sr.)
MLB	85	Jason Hutton (6-1, 239, Sr.)
SLB	43	T.J. Griffin (6-0, 218, Fr.)
CB	12	Adriel Hansbro (5-10, 174, Jr.)
CB	11	Alvah Hansbro (5-10, 175, Jr.)
FS	8	Mark Reiter (6-1, 192, So.)
SS	48	Ray Smith (6-2, 185, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	25	Chris Nendick (5-11, 160, So.)
P	45	Jason Baez (5-9, 168, So.)

One glass ceiling gone, one to go. Last year the Huskies earned their first bowl bid since 1983 when a 9-3 regular season was rewarded with a bid to the Silicon Valley Classic. That was sweet redemption for a team that was denied a bid the previous season despite a 10-2 record. And it was an uplifting experience for a program whose last bowl bid came in a game that no longer exists (California Raisin Bowl) against an opponent that no longer sponsors football (Cal State Fullerton).

But one challenge still remains for a team that has shared three of the last four West Division titles: aiming a berth in its first MAC Championship Game.

There are plenty of weapons on both sides of the ball to make that goal a reality as coach Joe Novak welcomes back 15 starters and 37 letter-winners.

On offense, the Huskies' rush-oriented attack returns three All-MAC offensive linemen in junior left tackle Doug Free and seniors Brian Van Acker and Ben Lueck. That group will create holes for perhaps the league's best tandem of returning tailbacks in Garrett Wolfe and A.J. Harris.

Wolfe earned All-MAC honors last season after replacing Harris as the starter early in the season, and the pair combined for 2,478 rushing yards and 22 TDs.

Northern Illinois will need to replace three-year starter Josh Haldi at quarterback, but junior Phil Horvath got some experience early last season. The Huskies also have holes in the receiving corps as tight end Brad Cieslak and Dan Sheldon, both all-league performers, are gone as well. Sam Hurd and Shatone Powers will need to step up to replace them.

Defensively, NIU lost five starters, including a pair of All-MAC players in linebacker Brian Atkinson and defensive back Lionel Hickenbottom.

Seniors Javan Lee, an all-league linebacker who finished with 119 tackles, and Ray Smith, a safety who had 114 stops, will key the defense.

A deep defensive line will also be a plus as ends Quince Holman and Ken West as well as tackle Adam Schroeder have starting experience.

# EASTERN MICHIGAN

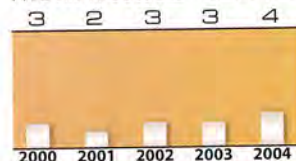
## EAGLES

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 4-4 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.emich.edu/goeagles



### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@CINCINNATI	
S. 10	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S. 17	@MICHIGAN	
S. 24	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	61-58 (OT)
O. 1	Kent State	17-69
O. 8	@TOLEDO	32-42
O. 15	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	16-34
O. 22	Miami (OH)	
N. 5	Western Michigan	35-31
N. 12	Ball State	31-24
N. 19	@BUFFALO	37-34

Head coach: Jeff Genyk,  
2nd Year (4-7)

Career Record: 4-7

Stadium: Rynearson Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,200

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/16

#### OFFENSE

QB	11	Matt Bohnet (6-2, 230, Sr.)
TB	22	Anthony Sherrell (5-10, 193, Jr.)
LT	68	Jake Bleeker (6-4, 303, r-Fr.)
LG	63	Khalid Walton (6-3, 314, So.)
C	62	Mike Romeli (6-2, 296, Sr.)
RG	73	Desi Mayner (6-2, 257, r-Fr.)
RT	75	Courtney Ford (6-4, 261, Jr.)
TE	16	Ken Bohnet (6-3, 219, So.)
WR	19	Eric Deslauriers (6-4, 207, Jr.)
WR	2	A.J. Bennett (5-9, 196, Sr.)
WR	82	Mark Borders (5-11, 180, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	90	Olivier Gagnon-Gordillo (6-2, 241, Sr.)
DT	93	Greg Egbuogu (6-3, 312, So.)
DT	91	Josh Hunt (6-6, 300, So.)
DE	88	Kevin Howe (6-2, 236, Jr.)
WLB	27	Jerome Perry (6-0, 190, Sr.)
MLB	45	Steven Bednarik (6-1, 229, Sr.)
SLB	42	Darren Matthews (6-0, 200, So.)
CB	26	Victor Alejo (5-11, 164, r-Fr.)
CB	33	Steven Lewis (5-8, 170, Sr.)
FS	24	Corey Parker (6-0, 180, Sr.)
SS	36	Rontrell Woodruff (5-10, 201, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	40	Andrew Wellock (5-11, 168, Jr.)
P	40	Andrew Wellock (5-11, 168, Jr.)

Head coach Jeff Genyk pumped some life in this moribund program last season, pushing the Eagles to a 4-7 record that included a 4-4 mark in MAC play, the team's best finish in five seasons.

But will the offseason turmoil surrounding tailback Anthony Sherrell halt that progress? Or will his return to the program, just a few months after announcing he was transferring to Division I-AA Delaware State, help continue the Eagles' move up the ladder?

Sherrell has the talent to help Eastern Michigan's offense. Two years ago he earned All-MAC honors after running for more than 1,500 yards. But the switch to a spread offense limited him to just 895 yards and sparked his unhappiness.

If Sherrell, who must graduate from school by August to remain eligible, plays for the Eagles, he combines with quarterback Matt Bohnet and receiver Eric Deslauriers to give Eastern Michigan three of the most productive skill players in the league.

Bohnet, a senior transfer from Iowa, finished sixth in the nation in total offense last season and threw for 21 touchdowns. Many of those scoring strikes were caught by Deslauriers, a junior who finished with 84 receptions for 1,257 yards and 13 TDs in earning All-MAC honors.

Three returning starters on the offensive line—senior center Mike Romeli and sophomores Chris Thomas and Khalid Walton—should stabilize things at that position.

Kicker Andrew Wellock proved to be a weapon on offense, connecting on all but two of his 23 field goal attempts and 32 of 33 extra points on his way to a spot on the All-MAC team.

Defensively, the Eagles will need to take big steps to improve on last season, when only three Division I-A programs gave up more yards than EMU's total of 469.6 yards per game. What's worse, only one school (San Jose State) surrendered more points than Eastern Michigan's average of 41.6 points allowed per contest.

The Eagles' top three tacklers are gone, putting more pressure on top returning tacklers Rontrell Woodruff at strong safety and Steven Bednarik at linebacker.



PRESEASON RANK:

4

# WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS



KALAMAZOO, MICH.

2004 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-8 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.wmubroncos.com

New coach Bill Cubit remembers the good times for the Broncos program.

Cubit was the team's offensive coordinator from 1997-99. During that period WMU went 22-12 overall and 17-7 in the league, claiming the MAC's West Division title in his final season.

The Broncos repeated as West champs the year after Cubit left for Missouri, but began falling the year after. By last season the team had hit rock-bottom, losing its final 10 games after a season-opening win.

Hence Cubit returns as head coach for Western Michigan's 100th season of football.

He'll have some building blocks on offense, starting with his son Ryan at quarterback. Ryan Cubit will have several explosive targets to look for in fellow seniors Greg Jennings and Tony Scheffler.

Jennings caught 74 passes for 1,092 yards and 11 TDs last season to become just the second player in school history to produce back-to-back 1,000-yard receiving seasons. Scheffler was second to Jennings with 53 catches for 570 yards.

Western struggled to run the ball last season, averaging less than 100 rushing yards per game. While four starters return on the line, more production is necessary from a group of running backs that includes seniors Trovon Riley and Daniel Marks as well as sophomore Mark Bonds.

While Bill Cubit may need only to retool the offense, he'll have to start from scratch to rebuild the defense. Only rubble is left from a squad that yielded 480.5 yards of total defense per game, next-to-last among 117 Division I-A schools.

The Broncos were also torched for 39.6 points per game, giving up 30 points or more in nine of their last 10 contests. They surrendered more than 50 points four times.

Six starters return on defense, but the team's top three tacklers from a year ago were lost to graduation and WMU will switch to a 4-3 alignment to better defend against the run.

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 3	@VIRGINIA
S. 10	@TOLEDO
S. 17	Southern Illinois
O. 1	Buffalo
O. 8	Ball State
O. 22	@BOWLING GREEN
O. 29	Kent State
N. 5	@EASTERN MICHIGAN
N. 12	Central Michigan
N. 22	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS

## Head coach:

Bill Cubit,  
1st Year (0-0)  
Career Record: 0-0

## Stadium:

Waldo Stadium  
Turf: Artificial  
Capacity: 30,200

PRESEASON RANK:

5

# CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS



MT. PLEASANT, MICH.

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.cmuchippewas.com

As Brian Kelly enters his second season as coach of the Chippewas, he already has a building block on campus in junior tailback Jerry Seymour.

Last season the 5-6 tailback ran for 1,284 yards, 12th best nationally, and also led CMU with 47 receptions. His 413 receiving yards lifted Seymour to 1,802 all-purpose yards, ninth best in Division I-A football.

And yet Kelly can't count on Seymour to be on the field when Central Michigan opens the season with a home game against Indiana Sept. 2.

In April, Seymour pleaded no contest to lying to a grand jury regarding his actions around a local bar the previous June. The jury was investigating a man's beating death and already had sentenced two of Seymour's former teammates to 30 days in jail.

So what happens to the Chippewas if the junior isn't in the backfield? The CMU offense is likely to struggle.

Senior quarterback Kent Smith is becoming more adept at running a spread offense, and he will operate behind a line that returns three starters. But the two linemen lost were two anchors in All-MAC pick Adam Kieft and center Eric Ghiaciuc.

Wide receivers Justin Harper and Damien Linson are also back after combining for 76 catches and 12 touchdowns, but quality depth here is a question mark.

And the running game? Without Seymour, the burden would fall to Spencer Lewis, who had just 175 yards in nine games and simply isn't in Seymour's class.

On defense, six starters are back from a squad that struggled to stop the pass, allowing 261.2 passing yards per game to rank 107th in the country. As a result the Chippewas struggled to stop teams from scoring, especially in five road games in which CMU was outscored 170-55.

All-MAC pick Dan Bazuin returns at defensive end.

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	Indiana
S. 10	@MIAMI (OH)
S. 17	@PENN STATE
S. 24	Eastern Michigan
O. 1	@AKRON
O. 8	@ARMY
O. 15	Ohio
O. 29	Toledo
N. 5	Northern Illinois
N. 12	@WESTERN MICHIGAN
N. 19	@BALL STATE

## Head coach:

Brian Kelly,  
2nd Year (4-7)  
Career Record: 122-42-2

## Stadium:

Kelly/Shorts Stadium  
Turf: Artificial  
Capacity: 30,199

PRESEASON RANK:

6

# BALL STATE CARDINALS



MUNCIE, IND.

2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ballstatesports.com

You'll have to pardon Brady Hoke if he has a few frustrations as he begins his third season as coach of his alma mater. Like the little Dutch boy at the dike, Hoke seems to plug one hole in his program just as another one opens.

Last season he found a gem in wide receiver Dante Ridgeway, a junior who was a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award after catching 105 passes for 1,399 yards and eight touchdowns. Ridgeway left the program a year early to enter the NFL Draft.

Last season Hoke developed true-freshman tailback Adell Givens into an All-MAC performer who finished with 963 rushing yards and six touchdowns in 10 games. Givens was bounced from the program last winter.

Last season Hoke took his lumps with a young defense that expected to return all but two starters this year. The two lost starters were All-MAC safety Justin Beriault and defensive tackle Conrad Slaughter, one of the team's leaders in tackles for loss. This year three of those nine returning starters already have been moved to backup roles on the depth chart.

Hoke probably should expect the Cardinals to receive some good breaks this season to balance the scales.

On offense, Joey Lynch doesn't make many turnovers and should steady a passing game that will look for players to step up and replace Ridgeway. Charles Wynn has already stepped forward to replace Givens, while Larry Bostic returns after sitting out last season with an injury.

The offensive line also has a veteran flavor, with three returnees led by fifth-year senior Bryan Smith and four upperclassmen expected to see significant action.

The reason for the shuffling on defense is the 52 touchdowns allowed last year, a total more than double the number scored by the Ball State offense. Strong safety Erik Keys, the team's top returning tackler with 84 stops, will lead the secondary.

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 3	@IOWA
S. 10	Bowling Green
S. 17	@AUBURN
O. 1	@BOSTON COLLEGE
O. 8	@WESTERN MICHIGAN
O. 15	Toledo
O. 22	@OHIO
O. 29	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS
N. 5	Akron
N. 12	@EASTERN MICHIGAN
N. 19	Central Michigan

## Head coach:

Brady Hoke,  
3rd Year (6-17)  
Career Record: 6-17

## Stadium:

Ball State Stadium  
Turf: Grass  
Capacity: 22,500





Games to watch:

- >> **Troy at North Texas**, Oct. 1  
A week after playing at South Carolina, the Trojans face the three-time league champ on the road.
- >> **Louisiana-Lafayette at Middle Tennessee**, Oct. 22  
The Ragin' Cajuns, if they are to challenge for the crown, will need this win.
- >> **Louisiana-Monroe at North Texas**, Oct. 29  
If the Indians are to be considered seriously, they must beat the best and win on the road.

official conference website:  
[www.sunbeltsports.org](http://www.sunbeltsports.org)

## League has some regrouping to do with three teams and 18 of its best players gone

Tommy Hicks  
Mobile Register

The game of musical chairs that has become prevalent in the Sun Belt Conference is being played again. This time, New Mexico State, Idaho and Utah State are out of the mix, with Florida Atlantic and Florida International taking their seats on the Sun Belt football table.

Some things remain the same: The league still is several member teams ranked in the bottom tier of Division I-A; it still has had just one team (North Texas) represent it in the New Orleans Bowl; and it's still in need of some big out-of-conference wins.

There is some momentum building. Two Sun Belt teams earned bowl invitations last year, with North Texas heading to New Orleans and Troy, in its first season as a I-A conference member, playing in the Silicon Valley Classic. Troy also provided some splash by opening last season with wins at Marshall and at home on national TV against Missouri, which was ranked at the time. But the Trojans failed to continue that run and also failed to share or win the league crown outright.

Troy defensive end Demarcus Ware was the No. 11 pick overall in April's NFL Draft, which provided some extra publicity for the league and the school, and other Sun Belt players have a chance to gain some national recognition this season. The addition of Florida Atlantic and Florida International, directed by well-known coaches Howard Schnellenberger and Don Strock, respectively, should generate some storylines for the conference—but only if those teams manage to collect some victories in the next couple of seasons.

The rushing tandem of Patrick Cobbs and Jamario Thomas should continue to bolster North Texas' emergence and keep the Mean Green on the receiving end of national attention. Cobbs was the league's top rusher in 2003 and when injuries sidelined him last year, Thomas took over his spot and emerged the top rusher in the nation with a 180.1 yards-per-game average.

The league has much work to do, however, especially considering that 18 of the 26 first-team All-Sun Belt selections last year were seniors. And of the eight remaining spots on the all-league team, three played for schools no longer in the league. So there's some rebuilding to do in the Belt.

### Rating the players

Fastest receiver	<b>Drouzon Quillen</b> , UL Monroe
Best hands	<b>Bill Sampy</b> , WR, UL Lafayette
Best passing QB	<b>Steven Jyles</b> , UL Monroe
Best running QB	<b>Jerry Babb</b> , UL Lafayette
Most elusive RB	<b>Jamario Thomas</b> , North Texas
Best instincts	<b>Chaz Williams</b> , CB, UL Monroe
Best athlete	<b>Ja'Mel Branch</b> , WR, North Texas
Best under pressure	<b>Steven Jyles</b> , QB, UL Monroe
Best NFL prospect	<b>Patrick Cobbs</b> , RB, North Texas
Top impact freshman	<b>Kenny Malnor</b> , DE, Troy
Hardest hitter	<b>Bernard Davis</b> , LB, Troy
Biggest underachiever	<b>Kevin Payne</b> , RB/S, UL Monroe

### Rating the coaches

Best strategist	<b>Larry Blakeney</b> , Troy
Best recruiter	<b>Darrell Dickey</b> , North Texas
Coach on the spot	<b>Andy McCollum</b> , Middle Tennessee

### Don't be surprised if ...

North Texas doesn't represent the Sun Belt in the New Orleans Bowl this year. While the Mean Green is favored to win the league title (again), there will be some competition for that top spot, perhaps as many as four teams in contention in the final weeks.

### One man's opinion

"With Florida Atlantic and FIU joining the football mix this season—armed by the state's deep recruiting pool—and Troy's entrance last year, the rest of the league better increase its performance on the field and in recruiting or risk falling behind."

—a Sun Belt coach

### Rating the recruits

- 1. Troy**  
Wins over Marshall and Missouri (on national TV) helped boost the Trojans' identity with recruits. Defensive end Junior Tagovailoa, a juco transfer, leads this class.
- 2. Middle Tennessee**  
The Blue Raiders have help on the way, with DT Brandon Perry and LB J.K. Sabb leading the pack.
- 3. North Texas**  
Darrell Dickey has a knack for finding and signing talent. Defensive backs Arthur Stubblefield and Korey Washington may help right away.
- 4. Louisiana-Lafayette**  
Ragin' Cajun fans will like RB Deon Wallace, QB John Hundley and OL Mike Welczak.
- 5. Florida Atlantic**  
With so many good players available in the state, the Owls will find talent. Running back Roderick Ferguson is an example.
- 6. Louisiana-Monroe**  
With so many returning starters, the Indians don't need much help right away, though J.J. McCoy may be an exception.
- 7. Florida International**  
The Florida talent pool and former Miami Dolphin QB Don Strock at the helm aids the Panthers' cause—so will WR Sanchez Anderson.
- 8. Arkansas State**  
ASU needs some help from incoming players and OL Jess McDonald and LB Ben Oliver may be able to address that issue.

## Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

### Offense

QB	<b>Steven Jyles</b> , Sr., UL Monroe
RB	<b>Patrick Cobbs</b> , Sr., North Texas
RB	<b>Jamario Thomas</b> , So., N. Texas
OL	<b>Dylan Lineberry</b> , Jr., North Texas
OL	<b>Bernayle Franklin</b> , Jr., Middle Tenn.
OL	<b>Brandon Cox</b> , Jr., UL Lafayette
OL	<b>Willie Hall</b> , Jr., Middle Tennessee
OL	<b>Justin Ernest</b> , Sr., UL Lafayette
WR	<b>Bill Sampy</b> , Sr., UL Lafayette
WR	<b>Johnny Quinn</b> , Jr., North Texas
TE	<b>Stephen Chicola</b> , So., Middle Tenn.
PK	<b>Nick Bazaldue</b> , Jr., North Texas
KR	<b>Antonio Warren</b> , Sr., Arkansas St.

### Defense

DL	<b>Brandon Bullory</b> , Sr., UL Monroe
DL	<b>Jeff Littlejohn</b> , Sr., Middle Tenn.
DL	<b>Tony Hills</b> , Jr., UL Lafayette
LB	<b>Bernard Davis</b> , Sr., Troy
LB	<b>Lance Preston</b> , Sr., FIU
LB	<b>Leverne Johnson</b> , Sr., Troy
LB	<b>Marcel Horne</b> , Jr., Middle Tenn.
DB	<b>Johnny Faulk</b> , Sr., Troy
DB	<b>Tyrell Johnson</b> , So., Arkansas St.
DB	<b>Willie Hughley</b> , Sr., Florida Atlantic
DB	<b>Sherrod Martin</b> , So., Troy
P	<b>Joel Stelly</b> , Sr., UL Monroe



**Steven Jyles**,  
Louisiana-Monroe





JAMARIO THOMAS, RB



# NORTH TEXAS

## MEAN GREEN

DENTON, TEXAS

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 7-0 Sun Belt (lost to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-10)

Stadium: Fouts Field

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,500

Official athletic Web site: [www.meangreensports.com](http://www.meangreensports.com)

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Darrell Dickey, 8th Year (37-46) Career Record: 37-46

Assistant coaches: Ramon Flanigan (off. coord./QB), Duke Atterberry (TEs), Bruce Bell (RBs/special teams), Harold Etheridge (off. line), Rick Gailey (WRs), Kenny Evans (def. coord./LBs), Mike Bugar (def. tackles), Van Malone (def. backs), Eric Russell (def. ends/special teams)



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@LSU	
S. 10	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	30-21
S. 17	Tulsa	
S. 24	@KANSAS STATE	
O. 1	Troy	
O. 8	Arkansas State	31-7
O. 15	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	
O. 22	@LOUISIANA TECH	
O. 29	Louisiana-Monroe	45-30
N. 5	Louisiana-Lafayette	27-17
N. 12	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	13-20

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10

Lettermen returning/lost: 33/20

#### OFFENSE

QB	5	Joey Byerly (6-4, 254, r-Fr.)
FB	37	James Mitchell (5-9, 192, So.)
RB	20	Jamario Thomas (5-11, 195, r-Fr.)
LT	72	Joel Foster (6-4, 268, So.)
LG	64	Jason May (6-4, 295, Jr.)
C	67	Chad Rose (6-3, 285, r-Fr.)
RG	66	Dylan Lineberry (6-3, 310, Jr.)
RT	60	Jeremy Brown (6-5, 299, r-Fr.)
TE	99	Robert Harmon (6-4, 265, So.)
WR	81	Johnny Quinn (6-0, 199, So.)
WR	3	Zach Muzzy (5-10, 175, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	90	Jeremiah Chapman (6-4, 245, r-Fr.)
NT	52	Chris Miller (6-1, 270, Jr.)
DT	56	Sky Pruitt (6-2, 295, So.)
DE	98	Eli Hutchinson (6-4, 240, Jr.)
ILB	51	Derek Mendoza (6-1, 248, r-Fr.)
OLB	4	Brandon Monroe (6-2, 220, r-Fr.)
OLB	46	Shawn Early (6-0, 215, Jr.)
CB	8	T.J. Covington (6-2, 190, Jr.)
CB	34	Ja'Mel Branch (5-7, 171, Sr.)
FS	24	Roderick Cotton (5-10, 202, So.)
SS	45	Cliff Higgs (6-1, 222, r-Fr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	29	Nick Bazaldua (5-10, 171, Jr.)
P	29	Nick Bazaldua (5-10, 171, Jr.)

## If Thomas and Cobbs can coexist in the same backfield, Mean Green could have nation's most potent rushing tandem

**F**our years ago, the Mean Green won the Sun Belt's first automatic berth to the New Orleans Bowl with a losing record, having tied Middle Tennessee for the conference championship but winning the head-to-head meeting with the Blue Raiders. Many believed at the time Middle Tennessee was the program with the best future in the league.

Three more New Orleans Bowl berths later, North Texas has proven to be the annual team to beat in the Sun Belt. It holds that distinction again this year, but for two reasons: running backs Patrick Cobbs and Jamario Thomas.

In order for the Mean Green to keep its championship streak alive, it must find a quarterback to replace the graduated Scott Hall, find a way to keep Cobbs and Thomas happy as a tandem, develop an offensive line that will allow the backs to do their jobs and vastly improve a defense that was suspect a year ago, especially in the secondary.

Coach Darrell Dickey has faced question marks before in recent seasons and found the right answers. Thomas is perhaps his biggest magic trick. Cobbs

was injured in the second game last season after gaining 56 yards. Instead of throwing the North Texas offense in a tailspin, Dickey threw freshman Thomas into the fray. The result was a 1,872-yard, 17-touchdown performance in 10 games, good enough to lead the nation in rushing yards per game (180.1). Thomas and Cobbs are now healthy and together in the same backfield, so Dickey will try to keep them happy and productive.

Joey Byerly appears the choice to replace Hall at quarterback and the offensive line will look to Dylan Lineberry and Joel Foster to lead the way up front. Johnny Quinn, who has led the Mean

Green in receiving the past two seasons, also returns, which adds to the scoring potential.

On defense, linebacker Brandon Monroe returns and former wide receiver Ja'Mel Branch, a talented athlete, has made the move to the secondary and will likely be in the starting lineup for the season opener. Junior-college transfer cornerback T.J. Covington will also help in the secondary, as could a pair of incoming freshmen—Korey Washington and Arthur Stubblefield.

North Texas opens the season at LSU, then travels to Middle Tennessee the following week. Other non-conference foes are Tulsa, Kansas State and Louisiana Tech.



PATRICK COBBS, RB



# LOUISIANA-MONROE

## INDIANS

**Record:** 5-6 overall, 4-3 Sun Belt  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.ulmathletics.com



The Indians' claim to such a lofty position in the Sun Belt standings determined by one factor, but a factor that gives them a rare edge over the remainder of the league: experience. Monroe will return 19 starters from last year's team that, 5-6 overall and 4-3 in the league, isn't outstanding.

Yet 19 returning starters in a league that saw many talented players graduate gives the Indians a leg up, especially considering many of the starters who are returning—namely quarterback Steven Jyles, wide receiver Drouzon Quillen, defensive end Brandon Guillory and defensive back Chaz Williams—play key positions.

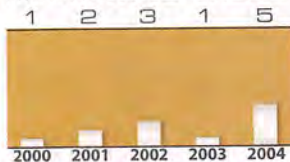
Jyles is the career leader in every Sun Belt passing category but one, and is also adept as a runner, picking up 587 yards and eight touchdowns last season on the ground. Mason Denham will be the running back, with Quillen joined by Larry Davenport and Joe Merritt at receiver. Tight end Joey Trappey is one of the best in the league, while an inexperienced offensive line led by Adam Hill must come around quickly if the Indians are to make a serious move.

The defense received a big bonus when Guillory earned a fourth season of eligibility. He produced 18 tackles for a loss last year and had 5.5 sacks. Williams' experience will be helpful in the secondary and, while there aren't a lot of familiar names in Monroe's defensive lineup, the unit finished third in total defense and fourth in scoring defense in the league last year. But there are several spots on defense that must be improved.

The Indians may get a kick out of this season based on their kicking game: punter Joel Stelly returns with his 45.1-yard punting average, which was sixth best in the nation, while solid Cole Wilson returns as the placekicker.

The schedule is a factor, too. Monroe travels to Mountain West contender Wyoming for its second game, then gets a taste of the SEC with Georgia and Arkansas on the road in its third and sixth weeks. It plays Troy and Louisiana-Lafayette at home, but must travel to North Texas and Middle Tennessee.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	Northwestern State	
S. 10	@WYOMING	10-31
S. 17	@GEORGIA	
S. 24	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	17-13
O. 1	Arkansas State	21-28
O. 8	@ARKANSAS	20-49
O. 15	Troy	
O. 29	@NORTH TEXAS	30-45
N. 5	Florida International	28-20
N. 12	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	24-37
N. 19	Louisiana-Lafayette	13-10

**Head coach:** Charlie Weatherbie,  
 3rd Year (6-17)  
**Career Record:** 51-81  
**Stadium:** Malone Stadium  
**Turf:** Grass  
**Capacity:** 30,427

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 44/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	15 Steven Jyles (6-1, 191, Sr.)
RB	14 Kevin Payne (6-1, 212, Jr.)
RB	33 Mason Denham (5-9, 192, Sr.)
LT	72 Nicolas Silva (6-3, 310, Jr.)
LG	79 Adam Hill (6-1, 299, So.)
C	66 Dorian Beckwith (6-0, 315, Sr.)
RG	55 Patrick Avinger (6-2, 264, So.)
RT	75 Kyle Cunningham (6-4, 260, r-Fr.)
TE	1 Joey Trappey (6-1, 224, Sr.)
WR	18 Drouzon Quillen (6-6, 215, Jr.)
WR	9 Joe Merritt (6-0, 188, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	42 Brandon Guillory (6-4, 240, Jr.)
NT	93 Dilandos Johnson (6-3, 288, Sr.)
DT	53 Ricky Williams (6-2, 267, So.)
DE	99 Alnecco Shine (6-2, 256, Sr.)
LB	32 Jason Schule (6-0, 213, Sr.)
LB	46 James Williams (6-0, 218, So.)
LB	44 Harry Bradley (6-1, 209, Jr.)
CB	24 Chazman Williams (6-0, 180, So.)
CB	19 Darius Battles (5-11, 180, So.)
CB	6 Quintez Secka (5-11, 185, Jr.)
S	23 Shelton Williams (6-3, 202, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	87 Cole Wilson (5-11, 183, So.)
P	13 Joel Stelly (5-11, 187, Sr.)

# TROY

## TROJANS



**2004 Record:** 7-5 overall, 5-2 Sun Belt  
 (lost to Northern Illinois in the Silicon Valley Classic, 34-21)  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.troytrojans.com

Just when it appeared the Trojans would make a grand entrance into the Sun Belt last season, they faded into the background by losing four games in a six-game stretch after picking up impressive wins against Marshall (on the road) and Missouri to start the season.

They lost their first league game at New Mexico State and also lost to LSU and South Carolina, though playing both SEC teams close. After inserting then-freshman D.T. McDowell at starting quarterback in the seventh game, Troy put together another streak, winning its final four regular-season games before losing to Northern Illinois in the Silicon Valley Bowl.

There was a vast divide between Troy's two units—the defense ranked No. 8 in the country in rushing defense, No. 10 in scoring defense and No. 16 in total defense, while the offense was No. 115 (out of 117 teams) in total offense.

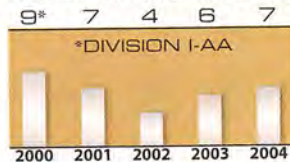
Heading into this season there are quite a few holes for the Trojans to fill on both sides of the ball. Included among the missing are 1,000-yard rusher DeWhitt Betterson and first-round NFL draft pick Demarcus Ware, last season's Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year. And the Trojans also lost Ware's coach, as defensive coordinator Les Koenning was hired away by Clemson.

McDowell's eligibility for the season is in question heading into the fall, so Carl Meadows could be the starting quarterback. He may be anyway, having won the No. 1 spot in the spring. Just in case, coach Larry Blakeney signed a juco quarterback late in the signing period. Joel Whinghter could take Betterson's place at tailback, but he's built for durability and tough yards, not speed. At wide receiver, James Earl Cray and Eugene Hampton lead the way with help from former QB Gary Banks. Up front, Rob Austin, who played tight end last season, has been moved to left tackle. James Gardner, Kirbie Bodiford, James Edwards and Zarah Yisrael must emerge alongside him.

On defense, Ware's heir apparent is freshman Kenny Mainor, whose big frame (6-4, 220), great speed and quickness draw comparisons with his predecessor at defensive end.

South Carolina, UAB and Missouri are part of a tough non-conference schedule for the Trojans. North Texas is Troy's first Sun Belt opponent.

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Cal Poly	
S. 10	UAB	
S. 17	@MISSOURI	24-14
S. 24	@SOUTH CAROLINA	7-17
O. 1	@NORTH TEXAS	
O. 8	Florida International	
O. 15	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
O. 29	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	13-10
N. 5	Florida Atlantic	24-6
N. 12	@ARKANSAS STATE	9-13
N. 19	Middle Tennessee	37-17

**Head coach:** Larry Blakeney,  
 15th Year (112-52-1)  
**Career Record:** 112-52-1  
**Stadium:** Movie Gallery Stadium  
**Turf:** Artificial  
**Capacity:** 30,000

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 7  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 37/23

#### OFFENSE

QB	15 Carl Meadows (6-2, 187, Jr.)
RB	21 Joel Whinghter (6-0, 207, Sr.)
FB	33 Sean Dawkins (5-10, 225, Jr.)
LT	79 Rob Austin (6-5, 256, Jr.)
LG	76 Zarah Yisrael (6-3, 324, Sr.)
C	72 James Gardner (6-3, 311, Jr.)
RG	71 Kirbie Bodiford (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RT	73 James Edwards (6-5, 304, Sr.)
TE	89 Josh Pruitt (6-3, 235, Jr.)
SE	17 Gary Banks (6-1, 200, So.)
FL	81 James Earl Cray (5-10, 174, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	54 Larry Brown (6-3, 233, Sr.)
NT	74 Franklin Lloyd (6-0, 304, Sr.)
DT	91 Torre Lankford (6-1, 273, Sr.)
RE	51 Kenny Mainor (6-4, 220, r-Fr.)
WLB	27 Bernard Davis (6-0, 221, Sr.)
MLB	30 Leverage Johnson (6-0, 235, Sr.)
SLB	26 Marcus Richardson (6-1, 200, So.)
LCB	3 Adrian Ghent (5-10, 176, Sr.)
RCB	8 Johnny Faulk (5-10, 169, Sr.)
FS	13 Sherrod Martin (6-1, 178, So.)
SS	28 Brannon Condren (6-1, 204, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

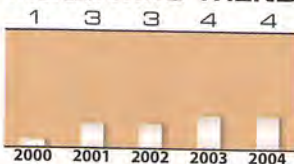
PK	40 Greg Whibbs (5-10, 165, So.)
P	20 Thomas Olmsted (6-4, 206, Sr.)



**LA.-LAFAYETTE****RAGIN' CAJUNS**

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.ragincajuns.com

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@TEXAS	
S. 10	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
S. 17	Northwestern State	14-7
O. 1	UCF	
O. 8	Florida Atlantic	
O. 15	@ARKANSAS STATE	27-24
O. 22	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	24-17
O. 29	Troy	10-13
N. 5	@NORTH TEXAS	17-27
N. 12	Florida International	43-34
N. 19	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	10-13

Head coach: Rickey Bustle,

4th Year (11-24)

Career Record: 11-24

Stadium: Cajun Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 31,000

**PROJECTED STARTERS**Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/17**OFFENSE**

QB	15 Jerry Babb (6-3, 215, Jr.)
FB	24 Dwight Linton (5-9, 210, Sr.)
RB	25 Chester Johnson (5-10, 198, Sr.)
LT	72 Brandon Cox (6-7, 295, Jr.)
LG	56 Will Chance (6-3, 295, So.)
C	62 Greg Hodges (6-2, 290, Sr.)
RG	75 Justin Ernest (6-4, 280, Sr.)
RT	67 Jesse Newman (6-4, 312, So.)
TE	88 Erik Jones (6-4, 235, r-Fr.)
WR	80 Bill Sampy (6-1, 175, Sr.)
WR	84 Jordan Jackson (6-6, 200, So.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	40 Eugene Kwarteng (6-4, 240, Sr.)
DT	65 Marshall Delesdemier (6-1, 275, Jr.)
DT	97 Travis Ferguson (6-2, 295, So.)
DE	91 Anthony Hills (6-4, 240, Jr.)
LB	4 Mark Risher (6-2, 215, So.)
LB	52 Tré Green (6-0, 215, Jr.)
LB	31 Tyler Norman (6-2, 220, Sr.)
LCB	27 Jemarcus Smith (5-10, 175, So.)
RCB	2 Michael Adams (5-8, 170, Jr.)
FS	30 Julian Harris (6-1, 195, Sr.)
SS	8 Lamar Morgan (6-2, 200, So.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	37 Sean Comiskey (5-9, 168, Sr.)
P	17 Brit Framel (6-1, 185, Jr.)

Entering his fourth season in Lafayette after several seasons as a top assistant at Virginia Tech, there's pressure on coach Rickey Bustle to post a winning season. The Ragin' Cajuns have come close, but have simply not had solid lineups across the board. Such could be the case again this year. Quarterback Jerry Babb, who produced 2,843 yards of total offense last season, gives the offensive backfield stability. He's expected to receive help from redshirt-freshman signal-caller Michael Desormeaux.

Bill Sampy, who had 57 catches for 776 yards and six TDs last season, leads a thin receiving corps. Only three other receivers had a catch last year. There is plenty of depth at running back, where the Ragin' Cajuns had great improvement last year. Chester Johnson leads the way, with Caleb Rubin, Abdule Levier and Josh Harrison all in the mix, too. Fullback Dwight Linton should also help.

The offensive line, which has four returning starters but not much depth, is anchored by Brandon Cox and Justin Ernest.

Defensively, the biggest concern remains up front, where Cajuns had trouble getting to the quarterback a year ago. While the pass defense ranked No. 11 in the country and tops in the conference, the pass defense was eighth out of nine teams in the league.

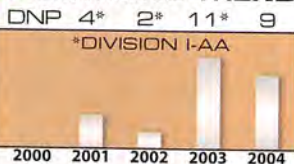
Tre' Green, Mark Risher and Tyler Norman all return to starting positions at linebacker, making that group the strength of the unit.

Sean Comiskey returns at placekicker and could claim several school records. The special-teams unit is a plus for Lafayette, as the Cajuns have blocked 16 kicks in the past three years.

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC****OWLS**

2004 Record: 9-3

Official athletic Web site: www.fausports.com

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**

\*DIVISION I-AA

**2005 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@KANSAS	
S. 10	Oklahoma State	
S. 17	@MINNESOTA	
S. 24	Louisiana-Monroe	13-17
O. 1	@LOUISVILLE	
O. 8	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
O. 15	Middle Tennessee	27-20
O. 22	@ARKANSAS STATE	
N. 5	@TROY	6-24
N. 12	North Texas	20-13
N. 26	Florida International	17-10

Head coach: Howard Schnellenberger,

5th Year (26-21)

Career Record: 126-98-3

Stadium: Lockhart Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 20,500

**PROJECTED STARTERS**Starters returning: 8  
Lettermen returning/lost: 30/29**OFFENSE**

QB	5 Danny Embick (6-1, 210, Sr.)
FB	35 Aaron Sanchez (5-10, 195, Sr.)
RB	8 B.J. Manley (5-9, 180, So.)
LT	78 Jamir Smith (6-2, 258, So.)
LG	65 Brandon Jackson (6-3, 245, So.)
C	70 Nello Faulk (6-6, 264, Jr.)
RG	73 Stetson Wilson (6-6, 310, Jr.)
RT	63 Antes Perkins (6-4, 285, So.)
TE	81 Dantson Dareus (6-5, 238, Sr.)
WR	89 Tito Pollice (6-3, 185, Jr.)
WR	88 Thomas Parker (6-2, 199, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

LE	97 Josh Pinnick (6-5, 222, So.)
LT	57 Jason Pugh (6-2, 259, Sr.)
RT	98 Jason Flemming (6-2, 292, So.)
RE	91 Josh Jenkins (6-3, 210, Jr.)
WLB	45 Cigirle Sincere (6-0, 213, So.)
MLB	59 Shomari Earls (6-4, 250, Sr.)
SLB	42 Kinyumba Mutakabbir (6-2, 202, Sr.)
CB	22 Lawrence Gordon (5-10, 175, Sr.)
CB	24 Willie Hughley (6-0, 170, Sr.)
FS	9 Taheem Acevedo (6-1, 195, Jr.)
SS	34 Christian Amaya (5-11, 190, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	33 Daniel Kenard (6-4, 185, So.)
P	28 Mike Brown (6-2, 212, Sr.)

Perhaps the most under-the-radar season produced last year was the one by the Owls. Coach Howard Schnellenberger led the Owls to a 9-3 finish that included wins over Hawaii, Sun Belt champ North Texas, Middle Tennessee, Florida A&M and Illinois State. In fact, the Owls won their first five games of the season.

That should be a great momentum builder heading into this year, FAU's first in the Sun Belt. The problem is that only eight starters—four each on offense and defense—are returning from last year's team. The other trouble spot is with the schedule. The Owls will open at Kansas, followed by game: against Oklahoma State and Minnesota and later a game at Schnellenberger's former coaching home, Louisville. The good news is that FAU has league home games against UL Monroe, Middle Tennessee, Troy and North Texas.

Schnellenberger has done a good job of collecting talent for the Owls, but now the process is at a new starting point, having to replace so many starters and jumping into conference competition for the first time in the same year. There is optimism, though.

The offensive backfield is gone. West Virginia transfer Danny Embick is expected to take over at quarterback, and he has the skills needed to run Schnellenberger's offense. B.J. Manley, with only 13 carries a year ago, is expected to start at tailback, with Aaron Sanchez at fullback. Receiver was also hit hard by graduation, leaving Thomas Parker as the top returnee there. He had 14 catches for 206 yards and a touchdown. The offensive line looks to feature three sophomores and two juniors, with guard Stetson Wilson being the biggest of the group at 6-foot-6, 310 pounds.

Led by Willie Hughley, who has led the team in interceptions the past two years, the secondary will be the strength of the defense. At linebacker, the leader of the defense can be found in Shomari Earls. The 6-4, 250-pounder was the team's leading tackler last season with 81 stops, including four sacks and 10.5 tackles for a loss. Up front, the Owls will look to end Josh Pinnick to set the tone.

Mike Brown returns at punter, with Daniel Kenard expected to grab the placekicking duties.

The Owls must improve if they are to cut down on their penalties. Last season they were flagged 113 times for more than 1,000 yards.



6

PRESEASON RANK

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE

## BLUE RAIDERS

MURFREESBORO, TENN.



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.goblueraiders.com

This could be the season the Blue Raiders get back in the Sun Belt race after finishing 4-4 and in fifth place last season. That's because they have 18 starters returning, many of them having played key roles last season.

It starts on offense, where eight starters are back, including quarterback Clint Marks, who led the league in passing yards (2,749) and completion percentage (70.4). The left-hander grabbed control of a race for the starting nod after a battle with Josh Harris, who also returns, so the position has depth.

The big problem for the Raiders last season was that the two quarterbacks combined for more rushing yards than the top running back. Three of the top four running backs return—Eugene Gross, Terry Jackson and Demarco McNair.

At wide receiver, the loss of Kerry Wright will be quite noticeable. Hoping to fill the void left by the school's all-time TD-reception leader are Chris Henry, Cleannord Saintil and Pierre Ingram. Henry caught 60 passes for 586 yards but no touchdowns last season.

Three starters return to the offensive line—Germayle Franklin, Willie Hall and Marcus Gates—and they must improve their play in an effort to give the running backs and quarterback some room and time to operate.

The defense is where Middle Tennessee should show some improvement, thanks to the return of 10 starters from a year ago. The unit will, however, be playing for its third different coordinator in four seasons, Mark Criner.

Former coordinator Bradley Dale Peveto joined Les Miles' LSU staff. Criner will direct an experienced and talented line, led by Jeff Littlejohn, that features six players who started at least one game last year. **BYU**

## DATE OPPONENT

S. 3	@ALABAMA
S. 10	North Texas
S. 17	Akron
S. 24	@TEMPLE
O. 1	@VANDERBILT
O. 15	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC
O. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette
O. 29	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
N. 5	Arkansas State
N. 12	Louisiana-Monroe
N. 19	@TROY

## Head coach:

Andy McCollum,  
7th (30-38)

Career Record: 30-38

## Stadium: Johnny "Red"

Floyd Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,788

7

PRESEASON RANK

## ARKANSAS STATE

## INDIANS

JONESBORO, ARK.



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 3-5 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.asuindians.com

What has distinguished the Indians' play the past three seasons has been their knack for playing close, but in most cases not coming out on the winning end of those close games. In 2002 they posted a 6-7 record, followed by a 5-7 mark in 2003. Last season, they fell off that pace to go 3-8 with a 3-4 mark in the league that was good for sixth place.

Consider that Arkansas State lost four of its first five games a year ago to Missouri, LSU, Memphis and Ole Miss, but picked up wins against Troy, UL Monroe and Utah State in the league.

On offense, where the Indians have just four starters returning, quarterback Nick Noce is back to direct the charge, which won't be easy to establish. Arkansas State ranked next-to-last in scoring offense (19.4 points per game) and passing offense (160.7 yards per game) last year while holding the seventh position in total offense. Noce has some talent, having passed for 2,115 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2004, but he was intercepted 16 times. Not helping the cause is the fact the Indians' top three receivers will not return. That leaves Levi DeJohnette as the wideout who must step forward and do so quickly. DeJohnette caught 25 passes last year for 280 yards and two scores, which is not going to strike fear in the hearts of opposing defenses.

The running back position offers star potential in 5-foot-11 senior Antonio Warren. Warren rushed for 1,075 yards and two touchdowns last year, becoming just the 14th player in school history to collect more than 1,000 yards rushing in a season.

Turnovers were a big problem for the ASU offense in 2004. The Indians were last in the league in turnover margin, losing 12 fumbles and throwing 17 interceptions.

Defensively, six starters are back and will be needed after star linebacker Josh Williams was dismissed from the team in May for "conduct detrimental to our team," according to coach Steve Roberts. **BYU**

## DATE OPPONENT

S. 3	@Missouri
S. 10	Tennessee-Martin
S. 17	@OKLAHOMA STATE
S. 24	Florida International
O. 1	@LOUISIANA-MONROE
O. 8	@NORTH TEXAS
O. 15	Louisiana-Lafayette
O. 22	Florida Atlantic
N. 5	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE
N. 12	Troy
N. 19	@ARMY

## Head coach:

Steve Roberts,  
4th Year (14-22)

Career Record: 63-55-1

## Stadium:

Indian Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 30,458

8

PRESEASON RANK

## FLORIDA INT'L

## GOLDEN PANTHERS

MIAMI



2004 Record: 3-7

Official athletic Web site: www.fiusports.com

Former Miami Dolphins quarterback Don Strock knew the challenges that faced him as coach of the Panthers, a new program entering a new football league. Last season, the Panthers posted a 3-7 record, beating Youngstown State in overtime to open the year and later picking up wins against Stephen F. Austin and Florida A&M, all I-AA opponents. But there is optimism at FIU because of the three Sun Belt teams the Panthers lost to last year—UL Monroe, UL Lafayette and Florida Atlantic—none of them beat the Panthers by more than nine points. Not a bad statement for a team that has only been playing football for three seasons.

More good news can be found in the fact FIU has 19 starters returning this year. And the offense isn't bad. The Panthers averaged 26.1 points and 378.6 yards a game last season, solid numbers for any team. The bad news, of course, is they gave up 32.5 points and 478.8 yards a game, numbers that must certainly be reduced if FIU is to enjoy any success.

On offense, quarterback Josh Padrick leads the way after throwing for 2,269 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. Wide receiver Cory McKinney, who caught 58 passes for 675 yards, was his favorite target. Other receivers back include Chandler Williams (46 catches, 525 yards, 3 TDs), tight end Samuel Smith (42, 510, 3) and running back Adam Gorman (11, 86, 1).

Running back is the position of most concern this year. Rashad Smith is gone, taking with him his 12 touchdowns and 1,133 rushing yards. Ben West, who played in just three games, carrying the ball 22 times for 137 yards, and Gorman, who had 15 carries for 56 yards, are the leading candidates for the starting job unless a freshman moves into the role.

The offensive line, where FIU concentrated much of its recruiting efforts last year, is also a concern. There is talent at the positions, but depth is a problem. **BYU**

## DATE OPPONENT

S. 3	@KANSAS STATE
S. 10	@TEXAS TECH
S. 24	@ARKANSAS STATE
O. 1	@FLORIDA A&M
O. 8	@TROY
O. 15	North Texas
O. 29	Middle Tennessee
N. 5	@LOUISIANA-MONROE
N. 12	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
N. 19	Western Kentucky
N. 26	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC

## Head coach:

Don Strock,  
4th Year, (10-23)

Career Record: 10-23

## Stadium: Florida International

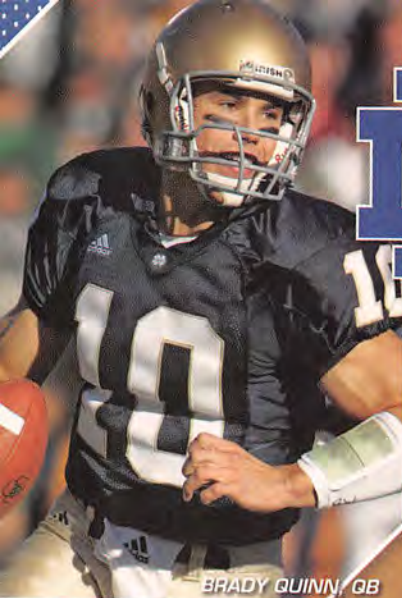
University Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 17,000

SUN BELT





BRADY QUINN, QB



# NOTRE DAME

## FIGHTING IRISH

SOUTH BEND, IND

2004 Record: 6-6 overall (lost to Oregon State in the Insight Bowl, 38-21)  
Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium  
Official athletic Web site: www.und.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 80,795

### FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Charlie Weis, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0

Assistant coaches: David Cutcliffe (asst. head coach/QBs), Bill Lewis (asst. head coach/DBs), Mike Haywood (off. coord./RBs), Rick Minter (def. coord.), Rob Ianello (TEs/recruiting coord.), John Latina (OL), Jappy Oliver (DL), Bernie Parmalee (TEs/ST asst.), Brian Polian (ST coord./DBs asst.)



## Weis surrounding himself with experience in quest to get Irish back fighting again

By Al Lesar  
South Bend (Ind.) Tribune

**C**an Charlie Weis do what no other Notre Dame football coach has been able to do since 1988?

Win a national championship, that is.

Odds are stacked against the offensive wizard from the New England Patriots, who's in his first year of his first head-coaching gig. But the Irish appear to be a lot closer to a recovery than they were in the turbulent times of last winter.

Not only did Tyrone Willingham not win with much consistency during his three seasons in South Bend, but the Notre Dame program was heading into year No. 4 without much hope for improvement. Recruiting deficiencies, coupled with on-field collapses that occurred with regularity, convinced the university's



CHARLIE WEIS

new leadership—headed by incoming President Rev. John Jenkins—to either fish or cut bait.

The verdict was to cut bait—Willingham, that is.

Weis' Notre Dame pedigree comes with a degree, not a legacy on the football field. He was never an Irish player, but has surrounded himself with the likes of Mike Haywood (offensive coordinator/running backs coach) and Ron

Powlus (director of personnel development), who lend credibility as former players. He was never a head coach, but has surrounded himself with assistants like David Cutcliffe (former Mississippi head coach), Bill Lewis (former head coach at Georgia Tech and East Carolina) and Rick Minter (ex-Cincinnati head coach).

Three Super Bowl rings and internships under Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick are assets that few in his profession can match—and advantages he hopes to exploit during the recruiting wars.

The 2005 Irish may struggle. Temptations to look at the waiver wire will have to give way to the patience of the college game. He has inherited a team that has been 11-13 over the past two seasons and has graduated most of its defensive talent.

With a flare for the dramatic, Weis unveiled his new approach to football in South Bend with what seemed to be a contrived tantrum at junior quarterback Brady Quinn and the rest of his offense. Accustomed to doing everything under the cloak of secrecy, Weis berated his first unit on the very first play of spring practice.

"We'll run that play for the next two hours if we have to, but we're going to get it right," Weis bellowed for all the cameras to see and record.

Welcome to town, Charlie.

Besides Quinn (191-of-353 passing for 2,586 yards and 17 TDs), the Irish will have a proven

### 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	@PITTSBURGH	38-41
S. 10	@MICHIGAN	28-20
S. 17	Michigan State	31-24
S. 24	@WASHINGTON	38-3
O. 1	@PURDUE	16-41
O. 15	USC	10-41
O. 22	Brigham Young	17-20
N. 5	Tennessee	17-13
N. 12	Navy	27-9
N. 19	Syracuse	
N. 26	@STANFORD	23-15

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13

Lettermen returning/lost: 36/23

#### OFFENSE

QB	10	Brady Quinn (6-4, 224, Jr.)
FB	16	Rashon Powers-Neal (6-2, 243, Sr.)
TB	3	Darius Walker (5-11, 200, So.)
LT	68	Ryan Harris (6-5, 289, Jr.)
LG	50	Dan Santucci (6-4, 292, Sr.)
C	78	John Sullivan (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG	74	Dan Stevenson (6-5, 293, Sr.)
RT	73	Mark LeVair (6-7, 310, Sr.)
TE	88	Anthony Fasano (6-4, 256, Sr.)
WR	5	Rhema McKnight (6-1, 215, Sr.)
WR	21	Maurice Stovall (6-5, 227, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	75	Chris Frome (6-5, 271, Sr.)
NG	98	Trevor Laws (6-0, 285, Jr.)
DT	66	Derek Landri (6-2, 278, Sr.)
RE	95	Victor Abiamiri (6-4, 269, Jr.)
WLB	39	Brandon Hoyte (5-11, 231, Sr.)
MLB	46	Corey Mays (6-1, 243, Sr.)
SLB	18	Chinedum Ndukwe (6-2, 223, Jr.)
CB	20	Terrell Lambert (5-10, 190, So.)
CB	30	Mike Richardson (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FS	9	Tom Zbikowski (5-11, 203, Jr.)
SS	4	Anthony Vernaglia (6-4, 220, So.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick (6-1, 200, Sr.)
P	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick (6-1, 200, Sr.)

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- Steve Quinn, LB  
Late recruit from Philly may be most productive.
- Michael Turkovich, OL  
Massive blocker (6-7, 285) from Pennsylvania.
- Joey Hibben, TE  
Midwest's top TE prospect (6-5, 235) may play early.
- Paul Duncan, OL  
Irish have had surprising luck recruiting Georgia.
- Scott Smith, LB  
Illinois product could be the sleeper of this class.

MATT CASHORE / US PRESSWIRE



RHEMA MCKNIGHT, WR





entity in sophomore tailback Darius Walker (786 rushing yards, 7 TDs). Veteran offensive linemen John Sullivan, Bob Morton, Ryan Harris, Dan Stevenson and Mark LeVoi give Notre Dame a nice place to begin its attack.

Tight ends Anthony Fasano, Marcus Freeman and John Carlson will supply quality depth at a position that is critical in Weis' version of an offense. They'll set the table for receivers Rhema McKnight (42 receptions, 610 yards, 3 TDs), Maurice Stovall (21, 313, 1), Matt Shelton (20, 515, 6) and Jeff Samardzija (17, 274).

The Irish may need to outscore some teams, because some defensive holes may be hard to fill.

Defensive end Justin Tuck passed up a fifth year of eligibility for the NFL. That leaves

Victor Abiamiri and Chris Frome as the veterans at end. Derek Landri, Trevor Laws and Brian Beidatsch will try to shore up the interior of the defensive line.

Brandon Hoyte and Mitchell Thomas will be the best bets at outside linebacker, while Corey Mays will attempt to dominate inside.

Safety Tom Zbikowski is the only member of the Irish secondary back with experience. Cornerbacks Mike Richardson and Ambrose Wooden, along with safeties Freddie Parrish, Anthony Vernaglia and Chinedum Ndukwe will try to form a cohesive unit.

D.J. Fitzpatrick, who handled the punting and placekicking last season, seems to have a leg up on both jobs again. ♦



DARIUS WALKER, RB

## 2004 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	ND	OPP
SCORING	289	289
Points Per Game	24.1	24.1
FIRST DOWNS	217	225
Rushing	87	66
Passing	116	139
Penalty	14	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1529	1058
Yards gained rushing	1794	1425
Yards lost rushing	265	367
Rushing Attempts	460	399
Average Per Rush	3.3	2.7
Average Per Game	127.4	88.2
TDs Rushing	17	6
PASSING YARDAGE	2617	3375
Att-Cmp-Int	362-195-10	426-248-9
Average Per Pass	7.2	7.9
Average Per Catch	13.4	13.6
Average Per Game	218.1	281.2
TDs Passing	17	23
TOTAL OFFENSE	4146	4433
Total Plays	822	825
Average Per Play	5.0	5.4
Average Per Game	345.5	369.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-766	47-936
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-358	29-239
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	9-201	10-105
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.7	19.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.8	8.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	22.3	10.5
FUMBLES-LOST	15-6	27-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	67-548	62-495
Average Per Game	45.7	41.2
PUNTS-YARDS	81-3285	63-2591
Average Per Punt	40.6	41.1
Net punt average	37.6	35.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:50	29:10
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68/183	67/181
3rd-Down Pct	37%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/15	6/15
4th-Down Pct	53%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	30-197	25-147
MISC YARDS	79	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	37	32
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	11-15	22-27
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-35	29-29
ATTENDANCE	484770	340090
Games/Avg Per Game	6/80795	4/85022
Neutral Site Games		2/61042

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Notre Dame	80	63	69	77	—	289
Opponents	73	68	73	75	—	289

## 2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

### PASSING

#### Brady Quinn

GP	Eff.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	125.87	353-191-10	54.1	2586	17	215.5

#### Pat Dillingham

GP	Eff.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	110.07	6-4-0	66.7	31	0	6.2

### RUSHING

	GP	Att.	Net Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Darius Walker	11	185	786	4.2	71.5
Ryan Grant	9	127	515	4.1	57.2
Marcus Wilson	12	35	138	3.9	11.5

### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Rhema McKnight	12	42	610	14.5	3	50.8
Anthony Fasano	11	27	367	13.6	4	33.4
Maurice Stovall	9	21	313	14.9	1	34.8

## DEFENSE

### TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Asst.	Total
Mike Goolsby	12	43	54	97
Brandon Hoyte	12	39	35	74
Quentin Burrell	12	42	30	72

### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
Justin Tuck	11	6.0	38
Kyle Budinscak	12	5.0	33
Derek Curry	12	4.5	35

### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Derek Curry	2	39	19.5	0
Mike Goolsby	2	50	25.0	1
Dwight Ellick	2	20	10.0	0





LAMAR OWENS, QB



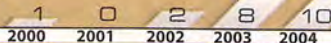
# NAVY MIDSHIPMEN

ANNAPOLIS, MD

**2004 Record:** 10-2 overall (beat New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl, 34-19)  
**Stadium:** Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium **Turf:** Grass  
**Official athletic Web site:** www.navyports.com

**Capacity:** 34,000

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



**Head coach:** Paul Johnson, 4th Year (20-17) **Career Record:** 82-27  
**Assistant coaches:** Ken Niumatalolo (asst. head coach/OL), Buddy Green (def. coord./secondary), Ivin Jasper (QBs), Chris Culton (FBs), Jeff Monken (slot backs), Brian Bohannon (WRs), Todd Spencer (OTs), Dale Pehrson (DL), Lt. Jason Snider, USN (DL), Kevin Kelly (ILBs), Keith Jones (OLBs), Ens. Tony Grantham, USN (OLBs), Ens. Danny O'Rourke, USN (secondary)



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 3	Maryland	
S. 10	Stanford	
S. 24	@RICE	14-13
O. 1	@DUKE	27-12
O. 8	Air Force	24-21
O. 15	Kent State	
O. 29	@RUTGERS	54-21
N. 5	Tulane	10-42
N. 12	@NOTRE DAME	9-27
N. 19	Temple	
D. 3	@ARMY	42-13

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 8  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 30/36

### OFFENSE

QB	2	Lamar Owens (5-9, 188, Sr.)
FB	36	Matt Hall (5-9, 216, Jr.)
SB	21	Trey Hines (5-9, 200, Jr.)
SB	29	Marco Nelson (5-7, 178, Sr.)
LT	79	Matt Pritchett (6-2, 267, Sr.)
LG	60	Zach Gallion (6-2, 300, Jr.)
C	69	James Rossi (6-1, 268, Jr.)
RG	63	Antron Harper (5-11, 249, So.)
RT	57	Joe Person (6-4, 260, Jr.)
WR	83	Mick Yokitis (6-2, 223, Sr.)
WR	87	Jason Tomlinson (6-1, 192, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	49	Jeremy Chase (6-2, 270, Sr.)
NG	98	Larry Cylc (6-2, 265, Jr.)
RE	95	John Chan (6-1, 246, Jr.)
OLB	40	David Mahoney (5-9, 216, Jr.)
ILB	57	Rob Caldwell (6-0, 222, Jr.)
ILB	52	Jacob Biles (5-11, 224, Sr.)
OLB	45	Tyler Tidwell (6-2, 216, Jr.)
CB	8	Jeremy McGown (5-11, 184, Jr.)
CB	13	Hunter Reddick (6-2, 192, Jr.)
FS	25	Dujuan Price (5-11, 217, Jr.)
ROV	4	Keenan Little (6-2, 194, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Ethan Gouge (6-0, 168, Jr.)
P	85	Eric Shuey (5-10, 182, Sr.)

## Minus Eckel and Polanco in backfield, Midshipmen will be hard-pressed to repeat stellar '04 campaign

**E**ncores in Annapolis normally don't come with much fanfare or expectation, but normal is no way to describe the Navy football program these days.

Ten wins, capped by an Emerald Bowl victory over New Mexico; a second consecutive Commander-in-Chief's Trophy; the No. 24 ranking in both polls; and coach Paul Johnson's selection as the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year have raised the bar in terms of goals and aspirations for the Midshipmen.

"There's enough guys on this team that have played that understand what it takes," says Johnson, who's in his fourth year at the academy. "We have a young team and they don't understand the other side. All they've seen is being successful. They realize how hard we have to work to be successful."

Probably the most daunting challenge facing Johnson will be to replace the production of running back Kyle Eckel and quarterback Aaron Polanco. While utilizing Navy's multiple-option attack, the two stars combined to rush for 2,127

yards. Polanco showed his versatility by completing 61 of 114 passes for 1,131 yards and eight touchdowns. He was intercepted just four times, as Navy tied four other teams for the fewest picks allowed in the country.

The heir to that pivotal quarterback position is senior Lamar Owens. At 5-foot-9 and 188 pounds, Owens' physical presence isn't going to impress anyone, but his size is just another component contributing to the elusiveness necessary to make that position work in an option offense.

"Lamar is clearly the best," Johnson says of his stable of quarterbacks. "His experience [makes him a clear-cut No. 1]."

The Midshipmen find themselves in the same situation as a year ago. Heading into 2004, the big question mark was how well Polanco would be able to step in and fill the shoes of Craig Candeto. While that worked out well, Polanco had the advantage of Eckel, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards the year before.

That luxury is now gone.

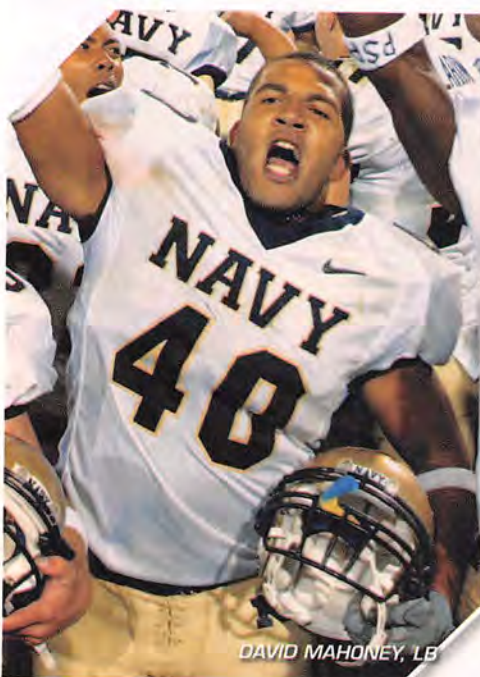
Slot backs Trey Hines and Marco Nelson were both along for the ride last season, but their roles will significantly increase this year. Along with full-backs Matt Hall, Adam Ballard and Ron Kimbrough, they will be charged with carrying the load.

The good news is Navy has its top receiver back. The bad news is Jason Tomlinson only caught 16 passes for 273 yards and a touchdown last season. How much a receiver means in an offense that completed just 65 passes in 12 games, however, is up for debate.

Tackles Matt Pritchett and Joe Person, guards Zach Gallion and Antron Harper and center James Rossi comprise a young offensive line that will do its share of learning early.

Defensively, the secondary will be asked to step forward because of its experience. Cornerback Jeremy McGown is the top tackler returning, while cornerback Hunter Reddick and free safety Dujuan Price led the Midshipmen with three interceptions apiece last year.

Linebackers David Mahoney and Rob Caldwell and end Jeremy Chase all know what it's like to engage in battle. ♦



DAVID MAHONEY, LB



# ARMY CADETS

Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 C-USA  
Official athletic Web site: www.goarmysports.com



Honeymoons end quickly at places like the United States Military Academy, where football is taken seriously.

Bobby Ross's 2-9 record in his first season at the Army helm may be forgiven, but not

forgotten. He's had a year to stall his system, some time to put players in the right position and an opportunity to get his assistants on the same page.

Winning is the expectation—anything less won't be tolerated. The Black Knights head into the 2005 season stronger and eager for improvement. Ross says 44 of his 47 upperclassmen increased their bench-press numbers over the winter.

"We are looking at some key development areas," Ross says. "If we get that development, we have a chance to be much more competitive than we've been in the past."

Quarterback Zac Dahman—145-265 passing in eight games last season for 1,767 yards and nine TDs with seven interceptions—is one of the key players who has to finally find his niche. A starter through most of his first three seasons at Army, Dahman has stopped short of establishing himself as the leader of the Army offense.

Running back Carlton Jones (1,171 rushing yards, 17 TDs) will carry a target on his back for most opponents. Receivers Jacob Murphy and Jeremy Trimble, along with tight end Jared Ulekowski, give Dahman plenty of sticky hands to throw to. However, an offensive line with only one returning letterman in center Pete Bier could experience some growing pains.

An experienced defensive front of ends Cameron Craig and Brandon Thompson and tackles Doug Meyer and Seth Lotts gives the Black Knights a sturdy foundation. Add in cornerbacks Dhyana Tarver and Ray Stith and linebackers Cason Shrode and Barrett Scruggs, and Army could be a difficult team to move the ball against. ♦

—Al Lesar

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 10	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
S. 17	Baylor	
S. 24	Iowa State	
O. 1	Connecticut	3-40
O. 8	Central Michigan	
O. 15	@TCU	17-21
O. 22	@AKRON	
N. 5	@AIR FORCE	22-31
N. 12	Massachusetts	
N. 19	Arkansas State	
D. 3	Navy	13-42

Head coach: Bobby Ross,  
2nd Year (2-9)  
Career Record: 96-85-2  
Stadium: Michie Stadium  
Turf: Artificial  
Capacity: 40,000

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/28

### OFFENSE

QB	7 Zac Dahman (6-0, 179, Sr.)
FB	40 Jacob Miraldi (5-11, 230, Jr.)
RB	30 Carlton Jones (5-9, 197, Sr.)
LT	61 Nathan Collier (6-6, 294, Jr.)
LG	70 Matt Wesiner (6-2, 280, Jr.)
C	67 Pete Bier (6-4, 282, Sr.)
RG	62 Miles Murray (6-2, 280, Jr.)
RT	72 Jonathan Cannon (6-6, 287, Jr.)
TE	88 Jared Ulekowski (6-3, 244, Sr.)
WR	17 Jacob Murphy (6-2, 206, Sr.)
WR	15 Jeremy Trimble (6-0, 212, So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	86 Brandon Thompson (6-3, 244, So.)
DT	90 Doug Meyer (6-5, 263, Sr.)
DT	69 Seth Lotts (6-3, 243, Sr.)
DE	94 Cameron Craig (6-3, 247, Jr.)
LB	22 Luke Pell (6-0, 212, Jr.)
LB	54 Cason Shrode (6-2, 246, Jr.)
LB	55 Barrett Scruggs (6-0, 209, Jr.)
CB	29 Ray Stith (5-9, 176, Sr.)
CB	20 Dhyana Tarver (5-11, 186, Sr.)
FS	4 Randy Chasten (6-2, 205, Jr.)
SS	33 Caleb Campbell (6-2, 233, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

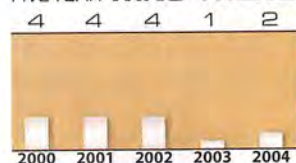
PK	48 Austin Miller (6-2, 207, Jr.)
P	30 Owen Tolson (6-2, 200, So.)

# TEMPLE OWLS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-5 Big East  
Official athletic Web site: www.owlsports.com

## FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



## 2005 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'04 RESULT
S. 1	@ARIZONA STATE	
S. 10	North Carolina State	
S. 17	Toledo	17-45
S. 24	Middle Tennessee State	
O. 1	@BOWLING GREEN	16-70
O. 8	Maryland	22-45
O. 15	Miami (FL)	
O. 22	@CLEMSON	
O. 29	Miami (OH)	
N. 5	@VIRGINIA	14-44
N. 19	@NAVY	

Head coach: Bobby Wallace,  
8th Year (19-60)  
Career Record: 101-96-1  
Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field  
Turf: Grass  
Capacity: 68,532

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/18

### OFFENSE

QB	16 Mike McGann (6-6, 225, Sr.)
RB	6 Tim Brown (5-8, 185, Sr.)
LT	78 John Gross (6-6, 295, Sr.)
LG	69 Sam McNulty (6-3, 320, Jr.)
C	59 Alex Derenthal (6-4, 280, Fr.)
RG	66 Stephen Bell (6-4, 310, Sr.)
RT	70 Elliot Seifert (6-7, 300, Jr.)
TE	93 Leyon Azubuike (6-3, 235, Fr.)
FL	3 Mike Holley (5-10, 180, Sr.)
WR	10 Jamel Harris (6-1, 185, Jr.)
WR	21 Brian Allbrooks (5-11, 180, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	45 Mike Mendenhall (6-3, 250, Sr.)
NT	99 Antwon Burton (6-3, 315, Sr.)
DT	58 Adam Fichter (6-4, 300, Sr.)
DE	89 Rodney Wormley (6-3, 240, So.)
LB	25 Ryan Gore (6-0, 225, Jr.)
LB	96 Manuel Tapia (6-3, 235, Sr.)
LB	4 Justin Johnson (6-1, 205, Sr.)
CB	14 Andrew Turner (6-0, 185, Sr.)
CB	20 Ray Lamb (5-10, 185, Sr.)
FS	23 Durrell Davis (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SS	15 Bobby Fulmore (6-0, 200, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	13 Ryan Lux (6-3, 200, Sr.)
P	12 Jake Hendy (6-4, 225, Sr.)

If coach Bobby Wallace can keep his Temple Owls on the football field and out of the training room, he'll be light-years ahead of last season.

While struggling through a 2-9 campaign, Temple was forced to play without five players listed as starters on the preseason depth chart because of injuries. Eleven players from the team's spring depth chart were out for the entire fall.

"Last season, we had to overcome a lot of adversity," says Wallace, who is beginning his eighth season on Philadelphia's North Broad Street. "I think we are a stronger team now because of it."

One area the Owls may not be stronger is at quarterback. Despite the team's record, junior quarterback Walter Washington had an amazing year. In the Owls' last Big East Conference season, he compiled 3,096 total yards to lead the league. However, instead of coming back to improve on those numbers, Washington opted to make himself available to the NFL.

That left fifth-year senior Mike McGann to handle quarterback. He started all 12 games as a sophomore, but last year played in just one before being lost with an injury.

An offensive line comprised of veterans—John Gross, Stephen Bell, Elliot Seifert and Tariq Sanders—should give some running room for backs Tim Brown (432 rushing yards in '04) and Umar Ferguson (493).

Jamel Harris (17 receptions, 217 yards) is the most potent weapon the Owls have at wide receiver.

Temple will try to recover from a 107th ranking in total defense a year ago. Rush end Mike Mendenhall and corners Andrew Turner and Ray Lamb will be among the cornerstones Wallace will use in the reclamation project. ♦

—Al Lesar







# DIVISION I-AA

## Expect Furman to cap mythical A-10/SoCon Challenge with I-AA championship

By Matt McKenzie

Street & Smith's Staff Writer

During college basketball season, one of the more intriguing matchups is the ACC/Big Ten Challenge, where teams from the respective conferences play one another for bragging rights.

If Division I-AA officials had their way, they might like to open this football season with the Atlantic 10/Southern Conference challenge. After all, each of the two conferences has four teams ranked in *Street & Smith's* preseason Top 25 I-AA poll.

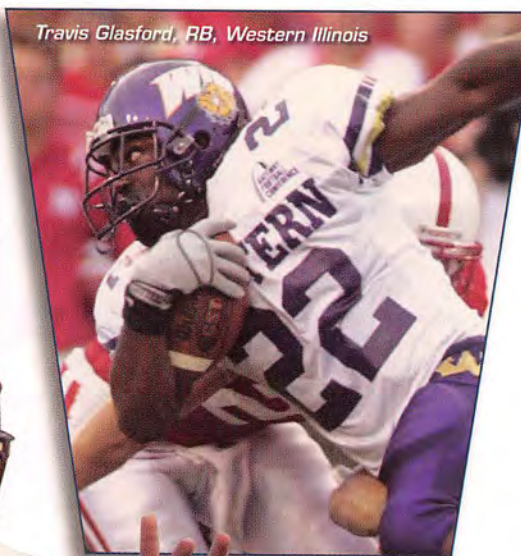
"There's no doubt that the A-10 and

Southern Conference are really two of the premier leagues in I-AA football right now," Furman coach Bobby Lamb says. "Anytime you can play through the schedule of those opponents ... I really think the toughness of the league can prepare you for the playoffs."

Any one of the eight teams ranked in the preseason Top 25 has a legitimate shot of winning the 2005 title game, but it likely will come down to two squads, Furman and 2004 national champion James Madison, that squared off in a memorable quarterfinals game in last year's playoff.

Up 13-7 with 5:11 to play, the Paladins had the chance to make it a two-possession game as they lined up for a 45-yard field goal. But JMU defensive tackle Demetrius Shambley blocked the kick, giving the Dukes new life. James Madison promptly used all but 28 seconds on the clock to drive down the field for

Travis Glasford, RB, Western Illinois



the winning score, a one-yard run by Raymond Hines. That was the closest anyone played JMU in the playoffs, as the Dukes next beat A-10 foe William & Mary by 14 in the semifinals, followed by a 31-21 victory over Montana for the title.

Lamb says the James Madison game isn't mentioned much as far as the team goes, but he has a strong and recurring memory of the contest.

"We don't really talk about it, but I can tell you from the inside it sticks with you each and every day," Lamb says. "Watching them win the championship, we knew we were good enough to beat them. They just made a couple more plays than we did. But that game can do nothing but fuel your drive to get better."

And better is what Furman is this year, led by returning starting QB Ingle Martin. A transfer from Florida two seasons ago, Martin came into the program and made an immediate impact last season, throwing for 2,792 yards and 22 TDs. He's also a year deep into the system, which can do nothing but help the senior, Lamb says.

"It was really amazing the first five days of spring practice in how much better he was than last year," Lamb says. "He knew where to go when he got in trouble and is

INGLE MARTIN  
QB, FURMAN



Chris Bocong, DE, Cal Poly



# DIVISION I-AA

## DIVISION I-AA

### All-America Team

#### OFFENSE

QB	Martin Hankins (6-0, 205, Jr.) SE Louisiana
RB	Clifton Dawson (5-10, 190, Jr.) Harvard
RB	Travis Glasford (5-11, 190, Sr.) Western Illinois
OL	Matt Magerko (6-0, 285, Sr.) James Madison
OL	Jeff Bolton (6-4, 325, Sr.) Montana State
OL	Chad Motte (6-4, 303, Sr.) Georgia Southern
OL	Stafford Davis (6-2, 302, Sr.) Illinois State
C	Antonio Narcisse (6-1, 305, Sr.) Portland State
WR	Eric Kimble (5-10, 195, Sr.) Eastern Washington
WR	David Ball (6-3, 185, Jr.) New Hampshire
TE	Daniel Fells (6-3, 236, Sr.) UC Davis
PK	Jon Scifres (6-2, 197, Sr.) Southwest Missouri State
RS	Marquay McDaniel (6-0, 190, Sr.) Hampton

#### DEFENSE

DL	Sean Conover (6-5, 254, Sr.) Bucknell
DT	Tom Parks (6-4, 260, Sr.) Delaware
DE	Brady Fosmark (6-3, 255, Sr.) Weber State
DE	Chris Gocong (6-3, 255, Sr.) Cal Poly
LB	William Freeman (6-3, 235, Sr.) Furman
LB	Gian Villante (6-2, 232, Jr.) Hofstra
LB	Justin Durant (6-2, 235, Jr.) Hampton
DB	Shannon James (5-10, 196, Sr.) Massachusetts
DB	Ken Chicoine (6-1, 200, Jr.) Cal Poly
DB	Reed Doughty (6-1, 208, Sr.) Northern Colorado
DB	A.J. Bryant (6-5, 190, Sr.) Georgia Southern
P	David Simonhoff (6-2, 175, Jr.) Southeast Missouri State

defensive end Roy Ravenell and linebacker William Freeman, last year's Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Freeman had 100 tackles in 2004 and is the kind of player Lamb says the team "can build our defense around."

If Furman's defense can't hold up throughout the season, then James Madison will be primed for a title repeat. Like the Paladins, all of the Dukes' running backs return, as does QB Justin Rascati, who has a year under his belt in the system after transferring from Louisville.

With just 16 spots in the I-AA playoffs, it could mean some familiar faces will again meet for the championship—especially if they're from either the A-10 or Southern Conference. ♦



CLIFTON DAWSON, RB, HARVARD



TOM PARKS, DT, DELAWARE

just mentally better. I expect him to pick up right where he left off last year."

Furman used three running backs (Cedrick Gipson, Brandon Mays and Daric Carter) last season and all are back, prompting Lamb to say it's the best running game the Paladins have had since the coach's arrival in 2001.

Although the Paladins lost several starters on defense, they return all-league

#### TOP 25

1	Furman
2	James Madison
3	Montana
4	New Hampshire
5	Southern Illinois
6	Eastern Washington
7	Delaware
8	Georgia Southern
9	Grambling State
10	Western Kentucky
11	Hampton
12	Northwestern State
13	William & Mary
14	Lehigh
15	Alabama State
16	Cal Poly
17	Wofford
18	Lafayette
19	Texas State
20	Appalachian State
21	Jacksonville State
22	Penn
23	Drake
24	Coastal Carolina
25	La Salle

DIVISION I-AA OVERVIEW

## PREDICTIONS

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Martin Hankins, QB, SE Louisiana
Defense	Chris Gocong, DE, Cal Poly
Newcomer	Pierre Rembert, RB, Illinois State



Pierre Rembert, RB, Illinois State  
(Rembert as a sophomore in '04 at Michigan)



## A-10 looks to take home third national title in as many seasons

By John O'Connor  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Back-to-back national champions" is a nice punctuation to a portfolio. That's the distinction owned by the Atlantic 10 Football Conference heading into 2005.

James Madison won last year's national title, while four A-10 teams advanced to the I-AA quarterfinals, a first for any league. Delaware captured the 2003 championship. The A-10 became the first I-AA conference to have two different teams win the national title in consecutive seasons.

An A-10 three-peat seems highly unlikely—or does it in this strong and balanced league? Last preseason, James Madison was projected to finish fourth among six A-10 South Division teams by league coaches and selected media. Then the Dukes went 13-2.

In the final 2004 I-AA polls, four A-10 teams were ranked in the top 10. Ten of the league's 12 teams appeared in I-AA's rankings during last season. In the final Sagarin Ratings, the A-10 was ranked first among I-AA leagues, ninth among all Division I leagues, ahead of three I-AA conferences (Conference USA, Sun Belt and Mid-American). There is the evidence that supports the A-10's contention that it is the planet's finest I-AA league.

### NORTH DIVISION

New Hampshire had posted five straight non-winning seasons in Atlantic 10 competition under coach Sean McDonnell before breaking out last year with a North Division championship, a victory at I-A Rutgers, the first playoff win (at Georgia Southern) in school history and a No. 6 ranking in the final I-AA poll. Based on the return of

key offensive players, the Wildcats seem in excellent shape for a run comparable to their 10-3 (6-2 in the A-10) of a year ago.

In 2004, Ricky Santos averaged 255.2 passing yards per game, the most ever for an A-10 freshman. The conference's co-Rookie of the Year also threw for a league-leading 31 touchdowns as the Wildcats averaged 32.8 points. Junior David Ball, all-conference as a sophomore, caught 17 TD passes, second nationally. Another all-league receiver, senior tight end Jonathan Williams, is back after making 43 receptions for 520 yards.

New Hampshire's defense needs an upgrade for another special season. In 2004, the Wildcats finished last among A-10 teams in total defense (404.5 yards per game), though they allowed only 26.1 points per game.

At Massachusetts, think new. First, the Minutemen hope they're done with the growing pains that accompanied the arrival of new coach Don Brown in 2004. They were whistled for a league-high 111 penalties (86 yards per game) and started A-10 competition 0-3, with a pair of home losses. UMass, which finished 6-5 (4-4 in the A-10) bounced back by winning four of its last five.

New also applies to personnel. Five I-A transfers joined the program during the offseason, including a couple of offensive linemen from Big East Conference schools and quarterback Taylor Humphrey, a Californian who redshirted as a freshman last season at Hawaii. Humphrey will challenge Tim Day, a senior who passed for 2,481 yards in 2004, his first year as a starter. But Day also threw a league-high 17 interceptions.

Massachusetts will pound the ball at defenses with Steve Baylark, a 6-0 225-pound all-league choice who averaged a conference-high 103.5 rushing yards per game as a junior.

When Brown directed Northeastern's program (2000-03), the Huskies consistently played some of the best defense in the league. Now, UMass has the defensive strength. All 11 defensive starters are back,

and senior safety Shannon James is the best of the bunch.

Continuation of trend reversal is the theme at Hofstra. The Pride went 7-2 in conference play and shared the league championship in 2001, its first year of A-10 affiliation. Then came a 4-5 league finish in 2002 and a 2-7 mark in 2003. Last season, Hofstra began a mini-rebound with a 3-5 conference record (5-6 overall). Another forward step is forthcoming with 19 starters back.

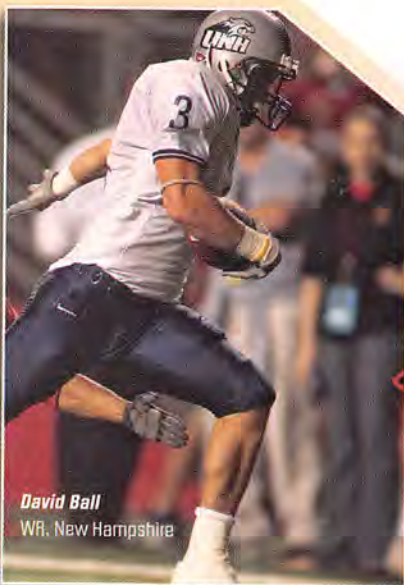
In the run-and-shoot offense of coach Joe Gardi, the Pride will frighten defenses with three top-shelf wideouts and a quarterback who appeared to be getting over the hump late last season. Wide receiver Marques Colston (1,859 career receiving yards) is back for his senior season after missing all of 2004 with a shoulder injury. At 6-4 and 230 pounds, Colston is a load with good speed and can outjump most coverage men.

Maine went from 2004 preseason favorite in the North Division to a 3-5 league record (5-6 overall) due primarily to narrow defeats. The Black Bears turned in one of college football's most surprising results—winning at Mississippi State—but dropped four games by a touchdown or less. In a related stat, Maine kicked only three field goals (seven attempts).

Maine needs six new starters from a defense that last season allowed an average of 403.7 yards, 11th in the 12-team A-10, and had only 16 sacks, last in the conference. The Bears will retool around senior linebacker Jermaine Walker, a second team all-league choice in 2004. He'll get help from sophomore linebacker John Wormuth, part of Maine's defensive rotation last year as a true freshman.

Junior Arel Gordon will again be one of the most difficult A-10 players to catch. The 5-9 175-pounder averaged 26.5 yards per kick return last season, scoring twice, and also scored on a punt return. Coach Jack Cosgrove plans to feature Gordon more as a receiver in 2005. Maine is set at quarterback with junior Ron Whitcomb, who has thrown at least one TD pass in 21 of 22 starts, and completed 60.9 percent of his passes for 2,318 yards last season.

In a league loaded with quality passing attacks, Rhode Island operates on an island.



David Ball  
WR, New Hampshire

## PREDICTIONS

### NORTH

1. New Hampshire
2. Massachusetts
3. Hofstra
4. Maine
5. Rhode Island
6. Northeastern

### SOUTH

1. James Madison
2. Delaware
3. William & Mary
4. Villanova
5. Richmond
6. Towson

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	David Ball, WR, New Hampshire
Defense	Shannon James, DB, Massachusetts
Newcomer	Matt Hale, WR, Richmond

### GAMES TO WATCH

10.01.05	James Madison at Hofstra
10.08.05	New Hampshire at William & Mary
10.22.05	James Madison at Delaware
10.29.05	New Hampshire at Massachusetts



he Rams move the ball via the triple option, which can pose problems for A-10 defenses geared for dropback schemes.

But coach Tim Stowers' team must reduce fumbles to improve on last season's -7 record (2-6 in the A-10). The Rams lost a league-high 24 fumbles in 2004, and finished last in the league in turnover margin. That, in part, is why they averaged only 24.1 points.

Doing the ball-handling again will be quarterback Jayson Davis, a senior with quick feet who rushed for 466 yards and 11 TDs last season, when he missed two games due to injury. Davis has been a regular since his freshman year and likely will surpass the 2,000-yard rushing mark for his career early in 2005.

Getting handoffs and pitches will be three returning runners who line up behind Davis: senior Calvin Poole, junior Jerrell Jones and junior Chad Campbell. Those three combined for 1,032 rushing yards last season, when Rhode Island led the A-10 in rushing for the third straight year and was ranked fourth nationally in that department.

**Northeastern** has a major threat at wide receiver—senior Cory Parks—and an offensive line with NFL-like bulk. Those are the two points of emphasis for a program that returns seven starters on each side of the ball from the outfit that went 5-6 last season (4-4 in the A-10).

Parks was a first-team all-league pick in 2004, when he made 65 receptions for 1,096 yards (12 TDs), and the Miami resident has 2,501 career receiving yards. But gone is quarterback Shawn Brady, the A-10's third-leading passer last season. Coach Rocky Hager, in his second season, will go with a freshman, either Anthony Orio or John Sperazza, at QB.

## SOUTH DIVISION

An old-school approach took **James Madison** to the 2004 Division I-AA championship. Run the ball. Stop the run.

No need to radically change routes. The Dukes, who went 13-2 overall and 7-1 in the A-10 last season, will again be physical and quick with 11 starters back. Madison's defense is small, but these Dukes get to the ball in a hurry. The best player on the team may be sophomore safety Tony LeZotte, who's typical of JMU's personnel. The 2004 co-rookie of the year and first team all-league choice is 6-0 and played at 175 pounds last season. But LeZotte delivered big blows in run support for a defense that gave up an average of only 87.3 rushing yards.

Three starters are back on the defensive line. The best are seniors Brandon Beach and Frank Cobbs, a pair of 6-1 tackles. The Dukes need new contributors at linebacker, but LeZotte will anchor a secondary that brings back very athletic defenders.

Quarterback Justin Rascati switched from I-A Louisville and fit in perfectly as a JMU sophomore. He passed when needed and ran when there were openings. But mostly, he let Madison's strong offensive line create creases for three backs who took turns accepting handoffs. The Dukes return all three runners—senior Raymond Hines and juniors Alvin Banks and Maurice Fenner—and each has picked up more than 1,400 career yards.

Senior Matt Magerko, a 290-pound All-America guard who JMU coach Mickey Matthews believes would be an NFL lock if he were 6-4 rather than 6-0, will block along with senior tackle Harry Dunn, who does have NFL dimensions (6-7, 330 pounds). Junior D.D. Boxley is among the league's fastest receivers, and Matthews wants the Dukes to pass a bit more this season.

No A-10 team lived on the edge more than **Delaware** in 2004. Seven of the Blue Hens' games were decided by a touchdown or less as Delaware (9-4, 7-1) advanced to the I-AA quarterfinals after winning the national title in 2003.

Whatever late-game mojo coach K.C. Keeler packed last season, he needs to relocate. Delaware trailed during the fourth quarter in five of its nine victories. Offensively, the Blue Hens will once again have a variety of options.

They can strike with a quick back, 180-pound sophomore Omar Cuff (673 rushing yards in eight games). They can play a power game with 230-pound junior runner Niquan Lee (9 rushing TDs). They can keep defenses honest with the scrambling ability of senior quarterback Sonny Riccio (315 rushing yards). And they can have Riccio, in his second season at Delaware after transferring from Missouri, pass to a pair of the league's best wideouts, 6-2 senior David Boler (2,008 career receiving yards) and 6-5 senior Brian Ingram (1,259 career receiving yards). Riccio established a program record for completions last season (259) while passing for 2,698 yards.

Through 25 seasons as **William & Mary's** coach, Jimmie Laycock never had trouble developing quarterbacks. He needs to do that again if the Tribe is going to remain among the A-10's elite.

Gone is Lang Campbell, the QB who won the 2004 Walter Payton Award and led W&M to a school-record 11 wins, a trip to the I-AA semifinals and a 7-1 mark in A-10 play (11-3 overall). The candidates to replace him are sophomore Mike Potts and freshman Jake Phillips. The Tribe also lost second-team all-league wide receiver Dominique Thompson. Otherwise, W&M is in great shape.

Junior Elijah Brooks, a Kent State transfer who gained 661 rushing yards for the Tribe last season, and Delmus Coley, who missed 2004 due to injury, are Laycock's

kind of tailbacks: dangerous as runners and receivers.

Reduce turnovers and protect the quarterback. If **Villanova** can reach those two goals, championship contention seems likely.

The Wildcats have plenty of veterans returning from a team that led the A-10 in total defense and averaged 30 points. That experience should help coach Andy Talley's crew snap a disturbing trend from 2004: losing shootouts. Four of the five league losses Villanova (6-5, 3-5) absorbed last season came to opponents that made the playoffs: James Madison, New Hampshire, William and Mary and Delaware. In those four games, the 'Cats' otherwise strong defense allowed an average of 36.5 points, spoiling good Villanova offensive performances in three of them.

The Wildcats committed 27 turnovers (14 interceptions). That should improve now that QB Marvin Burroughs, also an occasional running threat, is a junior. By now, he is very familiar with three fine receivers, senior J.J. Outlaw (third-team all-league), senior John Dieser and junior Chris Polite. Sophomore tight end Matt Cherry also rates as a potent pass catcher. But first, Burroughs needs time. Villanova allowed a league-high 42 sacks last season.

The defense, very tough against the run, will rely on a pair of All-A-10 first-teamers: senior linemen Darrell Adams and linebacker Brian Hulea.

**Richmond** will be better. But the Spiders may not be able to climb much in the A-10 standings during coach Dave Clawson's second season because the competition in the South Division is so strong.

Clawson needs to determine if senior Stacy Tutt, who threw 14 interceptions while UR was going 3-8 last season (2-6 in the league), remains at quarterback. The 6-2 230-pound senior is one of the A-10's best athletes and may help the Spiders more at wide receiver, where he played as a sophomore. Can Richmond can get acceptable QB play from redshirt freshman Will Healy or true freshman Levi Brown?

**Towson** has small guys who can play. The Tigers need a power punch on both sides of the line after a last-place finish (3-8, 0-8) in 2004, their first in the conference after switching from the Patriot League.

Coach Gordy Combs will use 16 returning starters (10 on offense) to keep building, but most of Towson's A-10 games last season were decisive defeats. The Tigers, primarily a sophomore-junior team, averaged only 17.7 points last season with freshman Andrew Goldbeck at quarterback. He showed promising signs late in 2004, passing for more than 300 yards in two of his last three games. The Tigers should get a lift from wide receiver James Byroads, who didn't play last season because of injury.



## Grizzlies looking for 13th straight trip to Division I-AA playoff party

By Loren Jorgensen  
The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News

"Dynasty" is a word that is probably thrown around too liberally in the sports world. But when it comes to Big Sky Conference football, there is no better way to describe the front-runner.

Simply put, the University of Montana has built a football dynasty. The Grizzlies are the Big Sky's king that simply won't be dethroned. Sure, there are conference foes that put together "dream seasons" and come close, but there is no question as to who's the boss.

The Grizzlies have earned 12 consecutive Division I-AA playoff berths. They've won or shared the league title seven consecutive seasons and 10 times in the past 12 years. They have a pair of national titles, have been to the championship game three other times—including last season—and advanced to the national semifinals once more in the past dozen years.

Unfortunately for the other seven teams in the league, 2005 should be more of the same. Look for third-year coach Bobby Hauck to lead the Grizzlies to yet another league crown and earn a lucky 13th straight playoff appearance.

Montana needs to find a replacement for quarterback Craig Ochs, but that never seems to be a problem. The Grizzlies have been able to replace quarterbacks—and even head coaches—without missing a beat the past dozen years.

Hauck, who has followed successful coaches Don Read, Mick Dennehy and Joe Glenn, completed spring drills with a pair of QBs battling for the coveted starting spot. Sophomore Jason Washington, a transfer from Bowling Green, and redshirt freshman Cole Bergquist will continue to compete for the starting job this fall.

Montana has six starters returning on offense, including running back Lex Hilliard (972 yards rushing in 2004) and receiver Jon Talmage (55 catches, 819 yards, 9 touchdowns).

The Grizzlies' defense is just as loaded, led by linebacker Shane MacIntyre, cornerback Kevin Edwards and linemen Alan Saenz and Lance Spencer.

The result should have Montana not only as the team to beat in the Big Sky, but also one of the top teams in all of Division I-AA.

Eastern Washington actually finished with the same league record (6-1) as Montana last season to grab a piece of the Big Sky title. The Eagles earned a playoff berth and made a bit of a splash by knocking off top-seeded Southern Illinois in the first round before losing by one point in the quarterfinals to Sam Houston State.

Eastern has 15 starters returning, including QB Erik Meyer, the reigning Big Sky Offensive Player of the Year. Meyer figures to be one of the top Walter Payton Award candidates this season after passing for 3,707 yards and 31 touchdowns while completing 67.8 percent of his attempts a year ago.

Meyer's top target, Eric Kimble, is also back. Kimble caught 83 passes for 1,453 yards in 2004 with a mind-boggling 19 TDs. Sophomore Rocky Hanni, who became the first-ever offensive lineman to earn the Big Sky's Newcomer-of-the-Year award last season, anchors the line. The loss of the team's top two running backs will be somewhat alleviated by the addition of Ryan Cole, a transfer from Oregon State.

Leading the way for coach Paul Wulff's defense will be linebacker Joey Cwik and cornerback Isaiah Trufant. The Eagles, with six straight winning seasons, should make it seven in a row.

After a breakout 2003 season, Northern Arizona was the league's biggest disappointment in 2004. The Lumberjacks earned a piece of the league crown and got to the quarterfinals of the I-AA playoffs two years ago, only to fall to 4-7 overall and 3-4 in league games last season.

Look for NAU to rebound behind the throwing arm of junior Jason Murrietta, who was the Big Sky's Offensive Player of the Year in 2003. While Murrietta had a bit of a sophomore slump, he still managed to pass for 2,495 yards and 16 touchdowns last season. With eight returning starters on offense, the Lumberjacks should be able to produce better than the 22.2 points they averaged a year ago.

Mike Kramer usually has Montana State in the thick of the conference race right down to the wire. In fact, the Bobcats actually tied for the league crown in 2002 and 2003. They were atop the league standings last season as well, before losing their final three games to fall to 4-3 in Big Sky play.

Quarterback Travis Lulay is a veteran of three previous Big Sky campaigns. Lulay has a top returning receiver to throw to in Rick Gatewood (64 catches, 995 yards) and a top running back to hand the ball to in Justin Domineck (736 rushing yards). Six defensive starters are back, led by linebacker Mac Molloy and safety Toph Grenfell.

Portland State was the hottest team in the league at the end of the regular season last year. The Vikings won their final four games—including a 35-32 upset over Montana—to finish the year 7-4 overall and 4-3 in the Big Sky.

Tim Walsh's club was hit some by graduation, however, so 2005 may be a bit of a rebuilding year. One skill position star returning is running back Joe Rubin, who



1. Montana
2. Eastern Washington
3. Northern Arizona
4. Montana State
5. Portland State
6. Idaho State
7. Weber State
8. Sacramento State

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Erik Meyer, QB, Eastern Washington
Defense	Brady Fosmark, DE, Weber State
Newcomer	Jason Washington, QB, Montana

### GAMES TO WATCH

09.17.05	Sacramento State at Portland State
10.08.05	Eastern Washington at Northern Ariz.
10.15.05	Eastern Washington at Montana
11.19.05	Montana at Montana State

had 825 yards on the ground last season. Junior Sawyer Smith, who threw just six passes last season, is expected to become the team's new starting quarterback. The receivers should be solid, led by Shaun Bodiford and Pac-10 transfers Nic Costa (Arizona) and Jordan Carey (Oregon).

Five starters return on the defensive side of the ball, led by linebacker Joey King and cornerback Dominic Dixon. The defensive line will be inexperienced.

Idaho State won eight games two years in a row before falling to 3-8 last season. With 16 starters back and more experience almost everywhere but quarterback, the Bengals hope last year was the exception.

ISU's defense returns eight starters, led by linebacker Kris Krosch, lineman Jermain Horn and cornerback David Beverly. Offensively, coach Larry Lewis has more holes to fill—most notably at quarterback with the departure of two-year starter Mark Hetherington.

Weber State finished last in the conference with a 1-6 record in the league and 1-10 overall. Still, there is plenty of excitement for the Wildcat football program in Utah right now thanks to the return of a very familiar face.

Ron McBride, who was the head coach 40 miles from the Weber State campus at the University of Utah for 13 years, takes over in Ogden. McBride is well known and well liked locally and provided instant recruiting credibility for the Wildcats. McBride has always been known as a strong recruiter. After all, virtually every starter on Utah's unbeaten Fiesta Bowl winning team coached by Urban Meyer last year was recruited to Utah by McBride.

McBride inherited a few outstanding players himself, most notably All-America defensive end Brady Fosmark, who had 18.5 tackles for loss and eight sacks as a junior.

Sacramento State lost All-America receiver Fred Amey and star quarterback Ryan Leadingham from last year's 3-8 team to graduation. As a result, third-year coach Steve Mooshagian has his work cut out for him. The Hornets do have top rusher Ryan Mole back after an 858-yard season.



1.	Coastal Carolina
2.	Gardner-Webb
3.	Charleston Southern
4.	Liberty
5.	VMI

## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Collin Drafts, QB, Charleston Southern
Defense	Kelvin McIver, DE, Coastal Carolina
Newcomer	Stephen Sene, OG, Liberty

## GAMES TO WATCH

09.10.05	James Madison at Coastal Carolina
09.17.05	Coastal Carolina at Appalachian State
10.15.05	Gardner-Webb at Coastal Carolina
11.18.05	Coastal Carolina at Charleston So.

## Chants have chance to make some noise outside of the Big South

By Gary McCann  
The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

Coastal Carolina finished the 2004 season with a 10-1 record, its first Big South Conference title and a Top 25 ranking in three Division I-AA polls.

What coach David Bennett's Chanticleers didn't have was an at-large bid to the I-AA playoffs, because the league has only five football-playing members and doesn't get an automatic bid.

With 19 starters returning, including everyone from the league's best defensive unit, the Chanticleers could be the first league team to get that at-large spot. They at least will likely get some preseason Top 25 votes.

Coastal has a chance to turn some heads in the season's second game, playing host to defending I-AA champion James Madison.

"We are going to find out where we are nationally as a program real quick," Bennett says.

The Chants also face Appalachian State and MEAC co-champs S.C. State on the road and play host to Delaware State.

These are heady times for a school that wasn't even playing football three years ago. In Bennett's first season, the Chants went a surprising 6-5 and rolled through the league last year despite having just three seniors.

The Chants led the league in points per game (37.5), set a league record for points allowed (16.0) and had an unbelievable plus-22 edge in turnovers, coming up with an incredible 27 interceptions.

For the first time, they're the team to beat.

Coastal Carolina rewarded Bennett with a contract extension through 2010, and

the Chants could be on the verge of league dominance by doing things the old-fashioned way, with the running game and defense.

Patrick Hall (5-8, 185) led the league in rushing last year (1,107 yards, 13 TDs) and was the Big South Offensive Player of the Year. Aundres Perkins ran for 532 yards and 12 TDs, with the Chants logging 3,058 rushing yards as a team.

Tackles Antwon Trice (6-6, 300) and Brad Poston (6-5, 300) and guards Les Rice (6-4, 307) and Brian Kepple (6-03, 280) are all back.

Quarterback Tyler Thigpen threw for 1,008 yards and eight TDs last season, with almost half those yards going to Jerome Simpson (26 catches, 419 yards, 8 TDs). In the red zone, the Chants were lethal, scoring on 43 of 51 trips, including 35 TDs.

Defensively, Kelvin McIver (54 tackles for loss, 7 sacks), linebacker Maurice Simpkins (78 tackles, 5 sacks) and defensive back Quinton Teal (50 tackles, 6 interceptions) were all first-team all-league. McIver tied for the lead in sacks and Teal led the league in interceptions. Dewitt Myers and Greg Williamson each had four interceptions.

Gardner-Webb stumbled to 5-6 overall and 2-2 in the league last season with a team crippled by injuries. Coach Steve Patton's Bulldogs lost starters or key reserves for 180 combined quarters. Two-time Defensive Player of the Year Mario Williams went down for the year in the fifth game.

Against a brutal schedule featuring six games against teams ranked in the top 25 at some point, the Bulldogs gave up 30.5 points, 216.5 yards a game on the ground and were last in total defense.

Quarterback Nick Roberts (2,410 yards passing, 12 TDs) and receivers Kory Alston (42 catches, 769 yards, 8 TDs) and Vonzell Pittman (36 catches, 403 yards) are back. Watch 5-11, 218-pound RB Kelvin German, a transfer from Middle Tennessee who has speed, running a 4.41 in the 40.

Linebackers Keppy Baucom (90 tackles) and Brian Johnston (50), all-conference defensive lineman Brandon Schweitzer (69) and cornerback Rent Sherrill (68 tackles, 2 interceptions) all return.

A key newcomer is freshman punter/kicker Michael Hanna, who must replace third-team All-American Graham Whitlock, the best punter in school history.

After going 1-11 two years ago in coach Jay Mills' first year, Charleston Southern rebounded to a 5-5 mark a year ago, the first non-losing season in the 14-year history of the program. Mills returns 16 of 24 starters.

If Mills can find some offensive line-men, the Bucs should put up some points. First-team all-conference QB Collin Drafts, a 6-3, 190-pound junior, set single-season conference records for TD passes (21), yards (2,533), completions (212) and completion percentage (.623), in the process helping the Bucs lead the league in total offense.

He'll throw to first-team all-conference wide receiver Eddie Gadson (69 catches, 792 yards, 9 TDs) and second-team pick Maurice Price (27, 401, 2). They lead the best group of receivers in the league.

Tackle Troy James (6-6, 290) and guard Rick Howell (6-2, 290) started as freshmen and must carry the load in an inexperienced line.

Keep an eye on running back Andre Copeland, a transfer from South Florida, who could become the team's top ball carrier.

Nine starters return on defense, led by 6-1, 241-pound defensive lineman Adam DeGraffenreid (38 tackles, 6 sacks), linebacker Jada Ross (68 tackles) and defensive back Tavares Shorter (40 tackles, 3 interceptions), all of which were second-team all-league picks.

After Liberty's second straight six-win season (6-5), coach Ken Karcher got a five-year contract extension through 2009. It was the Flames' first winning season since 1997.

Karcher returns 14 starters, but has a big question at quarterback. Junior-college transfer Brock Farrel (609 yards, 6 TDs) started the last four games (all wins) and should have the edge over sophomore Travis Johnson.

The Flames must find a way to replace running backs Sam Gado (901 yards) and Dre Barnes (758) and All-BSC linemen Sean Boyle and Thomas Smith.

A key newcomer is 6-6, 320-pound offensive lineman Stephen Sene, who started his career at the University of South Carolina and played eight games as a freshman there before transferring to Dodge City (Kan.) Community College.

Six starters return on a defense that allowed 25 points a game, led by linebacker Manny Rojas (89 tackles) and free safety C.J. Moore (85). The Flames were last in the league in pass defense (217.6 yards per game).

After a 6-6 season in 2003, VMI went 0-11 last year, giving up 34 or more points five times.

The Keydets have 22 of 24 starters back, including running back Sean Mizzer (729 rushing yards, 4 TDs), quarterback Keith Monteleone (808 passing yards, 5 TDs), first-team All-BSC wide receiver Zohn Burden (57 catches, 595 yards, 5 TDs) and every starter on the offensive line.

That should help the Keydets average more than the league-low 12.5 points of a year ago. VMI ran for slightly more than 100 yards a game and averaged 264 yards on offense.

Defensively, Robert Mason led the league in tackles (120). When a free safety leads the league, that's not a good sign. Improving linebackers Justin Huggard (97 tackles) and Todd Baldwin (95) should help.



### Look for Salukis to again hold key to Gateway, but can they break through in the postseason?

By Randy Reinhardt

The (Bloomington, Ill.) Daily Pantagraph

The past two regular seasons have been sheer bliss for formerly downtrodden Southern Illinois.

The playoff experiences that followed, however, were short and not at all sweet.

Reigning Division I-AA National Coach of the Year Jerry Kill has lifted the Salukis from the depths of the Gateway Conference and a 5-18 record his first two years in Carbondale to the heights of two conference championships and consecutive 10-1 regular seasons.

The sting of first-round playoff losses to Delaware in 2003 and Eastern Washington in 2004 should serve as potent inspiration for another talented SIU squad.

Seeking its fifth straight playoff appearance, Western Kentucky should battle the Salukis for Gateway supremacy, as could Northern Iowa.

**Southern Illinois'** cerebral and celebrated quarterback Joel Sambursky returns as the league's Offensive Player of the Year from a team that averaged 42.6 points in 2004. The 6-foot Sambursky will look for protection from a retooled line, but will get plenty of help moving the football from running backs Arkee Whitlock and Craig Turner and wide receiver Brent Little.

Eight starters are back from a stout defense that surrendered a league-best 13.2 points per game. The Salukis feature returning All-Gateway first-team members in space-eating lineman Linton Brown and linebacker Royal Whitaker. Jamarquis Jordan and Frank Johnson anchor a solid secondary.

**Western Kentucky** also boasts a seasoned quarterback in junior Justin Haddix, who enters his third year as a starter. Haddix passed for 1,976 yards and tailback Lerron Moore added 978 on the ground in 2004. The pair gives coach David Elson the promise of another balanced attack. Ohio transfer receiver Chris Jackson should be a nice complement to standout Maurice Perkins.

The Hilltoppers' typically rugged 3-4 defense lost three of its starting linebackers to graduation, and will rely on lone returnee Brandon Smith. The entire defensive front is back, and cornerbacks Dennis Mitchell and Antonio Thomas are secondary standouts.

**Northern Iowa** won its final six games of the 2004 season, but a 1-4 start kept the Panthers from being rewarded with a playoff berth. Then-freshman Eric Sanders fared well at quarterback in taking over for injured veteran Tom Petrie.

Dynamic tailback Terrance Freney ran for 1,100 yards last season and Nebraska transfer David Horne gives opponents more reason for rushing concern. Wide receiver depth behind Justin Surrency must be developed.

The Panthers welcome back their leading tackler in linebacker Brett Koebeke and feature one of the Gateway's best coverage men in cornerback Dre Dokes. Outside linebacker and safety are areas of concern.

**Western Illinois'** 4-7 record last fall was the Leathernecks' first losing season since 1995. Western could return quickly to its winning ways behind tailback Travis Glasford, who paced the Gateway with 108.0 yards rushing per game (1,080 total) and is on pace to break the school career record.

Quarterback Steve LaFalce tossed 12 touchdowns and 11 interceptions in his first season as starter and will look to veteran linemen Chad Walker and Perry Cox for protection.

Newcomers, notably defensive back Frankie Oliver, should have a large impact on a defense that welcomes back just four starters. The secondary also will benefit from the return of Chris McNutt, who had 15 tackles against Nebraska early on before suffering a season-ending injury. Linebacker Wyatt Green returns after finishing second in the Gateway for total tackles (107).

**Illinois State** is unlikely to approach the Gateway-high 409 passes thrown last season. But the Redbirds should have a potent offense if a capable replacement for graduated quarterback Yance Vaughan is unearthed.

A tailback trio of Brian Thompson, Michigan transfer Pierre Rembert and Rafael Rice holds considerable potential, while standout linemen Stafford Davis and Mike Stegeman return and Laurént Robinson and Kevett Mickle headline a strong receiving corps.

Much to the relief to the rest of the conference, three-time Gateway Defensive Player of the Year and tackling machine Boomer Grigsby has exhausted his eligibility. Successor Cameron Siskowic is key to a defense switching from a 4-4 to a 4-3 alignment.

Get the nametags ready. **Southwest Missouri State**, which officially becomes simply Missouri State on Aug. 28, has 23 newcomers joining the team in August. And there are plenty of positions to fill, with just four starters back on offense and five on defense.

1. Southern Illinois
2. Western Kentucky
3. Northern Iowa
4. Western Illinois
5. Illinois State
6. Southwest Missouri St.
7. Indiana State
8. Youngstown State

#### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Joel Sambursky, QB, Southern Illinois
Defense	Antonio Thomas, DB, Western Kentucky
Newcomer	Cornell Johnson, RB, Indiana State

#### GAMES TO WATCH

10.08.05	Southern Illinois at Western Illinois
10.29.05	Southern Illinois at Western Kentucky
11.05.05	Northern Iowa at Western Kentucky
11.12.05	Southern Illinois at Northern Iowa

The Bears must find new running backs to complement returning quarterback A.J. Porter. Cornerback Darren Barnett intercepted seven passes in 2004 and all three linebackers are back.

All-America placekicker Jon Scifres was perfect on 15 field goal attempts last season.

**Indiana State** welcomes the only new coach to the Gateway in 2005, Lou West, who is looking to install a three-receiver, one-back offense for a better aerial attack. A new 4-2 defense hopes to take advantage of the team's speed in the secondary.

Quarterback Phillip Johnson excelled as a starter with 1,946 yards passing last season, the third-most in school history. He will be challenged by Western Michigan transfer Blayne Baggett. The Sycamores have a standout receiver in Sam Logan and need a tailback to emerge. Highly touted juco transfer Cornell Johnson is the prime candidate.

Seven starters return on defense, including first-team All-Gateway end Kyle Mitchell and 100-plus tackle linebackers Orlando "Doc" Gooden and LaDrelle Bryant. Placekicker Kyle Hooper booted two game-winning field goals in overtime last season while converting 16 of 20 attempts.

**Youngstown State** is coming off two straight losing seasons for the first time since 1985-86. And it's clear the Penguins need the most improvement on defense, where a traditionally stingy unit has shown slippage the past two seasons.

Linebackers James Terry and Jeremiah Wright and cornerback Jason Perry will be counted on to spearhead a defensive turnaround, while line transfers Greg Jacobs (Vanderbilt) and Mychal Savage (junior college) should assist.

Quarterback Tom Zetts completed 60.4 percent of his passes last season and will continue to look for receiver Kyle Smith. Tailbacks Monquantae Gibson and Josh Cayson are a formidable tandem.





1. Cal Poly
2. North Dakota State
3. UC Davis
4. Southern Utah
5. South Dakota State
6. Northern Colorado

## TOP PLAYERS

QB	Kyle Steffes, RB, North Dakota State
QB	Chris Gocong, DE, Cal Poly
WR	Brandon Rice, WR, UC Davis

## GAMES TO WATCH

10.08.05	North Dakota State at Cal Poly
10.15.05	South Dakota State at North Dakota State
10.29.05	Cal Poly at UC Davis

## All dressed up with no place to go?

## Cal Poly worthy of invite to NCAA playoff dance

by Matt McKenzie  
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

Usually, a 9-2 record is cause for celebration, especially if the team is in Division I-AA, where a playoff system decides the champion.

But the Cal Poly Mustangs found themselves on the outside looking in during last year's playoffs, even after winning the inaugural football crown of the Great West Conference. Since the Great West is a new league, there is no automatic bid to the 16-team I-AA playoffs. And even though four I-AA teams that had three losses made the postseason, Mustangs coach Rich Ellerson isn't one to be bitter.

"We can't allow it to detract from our accomplishments," Ellerson says of not making the playoffs. "It was painful in that we didn't necessarily see it coming. We had a group that enjoyed the journey and were looking forward to playing again."

"I think our guys know that [our record] was really good, but we've got to get better. So it's not an open wound or anything like that—just a little bit more spice, if you will."

The Mustangs relied on strong defense last season, holding five opponents to 14 points or less. Despite the loss of Buck Buchanan Award (given to the nation's top I-AA linebacker) recipient Jordan Beck, Cal Poly will again be tough to score on. Senior defensive end Chris Gocong led the nation in sacks with 17.5, while junior Ken Chicoine mans the secondary.

On the other side of the ball, senior QB Anthony Garnett has solidified his spot as the No. 1 QB after starting the final seven games last season.

This will be the first season of round-robin play in the Great West, a conference that may be dissolved just as soon as it was created. Northern Colorado will join the Big Sky next year, and there are rumors of other Great West schools following suit in the future.

For now, though, Cal Poly looks to again be the cream of this new crop, if their

defense holds up to last season's level. If not, UC Davis and North Dakota State will challenge for the title. But as last year shows, anything short of a perfect record might just get you a trophy, a pat on the back and nothing else when it comes to the postseason.

What else can we do? That had to be the question Cal Poly players asked themselves after a 9-2 season in which they were shut out of the playoffs. The Mustangs have enjoyed three winning seasons in the last four years and are poised for another. Quarterback Anthony Garnett will have the full support of coach Rich Ellerson this year after coming in as the starter midway through last season and finishing with 1,711 passing yards and 14 touchdowns.

"He really wants to be a rallying point," Ellerson says of Garnett. "His challenge is to play within himself. He needs to be an operator and let things happen. He's not the Lone Ranger. There's some really gifted people playing around him, so he doesn't have to go out there and carry the day."

Two of those gifted players will be Garnett's top receivers, Jonah Russell and Anthony Randolph, who combined for 996 yards and eight TDs last season.

Defensively, the Mustangs will miss the services of the nation's top I-AA defender in linebacker Jordan Beck. However, good news awaits in the form of defensive end Chris Gocong, who was second to Beck last year in the Buchanan voting and is coming off a mammoth season of 17.5 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss. Free safety Kenny Chicoine also returns, as the junior had a conference-leading seven interceptions last season to go with 74 tackles.

Defense is what helped North Dakota State to an 8-3 record in 2004. The Bison led the conference in scoring defense (13.6 points per game), total defense (285.0 yards a game) and turnover margin (plus-13). Unfortunately, all three losses came in the league, including a 15-13 upset by last-place Northern Colorado.

The Bison will have to improve on their passing game, and it starts with sophomore Steve Walker, who led the team to its final three wins last year. Running back Kyle Steffes (1,055 yards, 13 TDs) enjoyed an all-conference season last year, but will be without the help of two top linemen, All-America center Rob Hunt and all-conference pick Nick Zilka.

Sophomore Craig Dahl anchors a strong secondary that allowed just five passing TDs and had 17 interceptions in 2004.

UC Davis led the league in scoring offense last year, averaging 32.3 points a game. That could change this season, as the Aggies have one of the tougher schedules in Division I-AA. Along with playing Great West favorites Cal Poly and North Dakota State, UC Davis also has contests against I-AA powerhouses New Hampshire and Eastern Washington,

not to mention a date at Stanford in its third game of the season.

All-conference QB Jon Grant is back after throwing for 2,512 yards and 17 TDs in 2004. However, the Aggies must get better production from their rushing game after averaging just 114.4 yards a game last year, the second-lowest figure in the league. Pila Fatukala led the team in sacks in '04 with five and will be key on the defensive line this season, along with linebacker Dan Elbanna, who had a team-leading 84 tackles.

The departure of Southern Utah QB Casey Rehrer means this could be a rebuilding year. Not only was Rehrer the league leader in passing average (258.7 yards a game), he also ranked sixth overall in rushing average (53.9). Either junior Zac Connors or sophomore Wes Marshall will likely fill the open position. The two were battling it out for the job in the spring. Receiver Jerome Eason (806 yards, 7 TDs) is back, as is senior Ryan Felipe, who scored by rushing, receiving and returning a punt last year.

Thunderbirds coach Wes Meier has shifted strong safety Steve Smith up the field to replace All-America linebacker Nick DiPadova. The entire defensive backfield returns, including all-conference second-team pick Brandon Perkins.

The first season of I-AA football for South Dakota State impressed many, as the Jackrabbits were a respectable 6-5, including a road win over Southern, which finished the season ranked 20th. South Dakota State went old-school for much of the season, playing the ball-control game and averaging 31:04 on offense a contest. Much of that had to do with handing the ball off to junior Anthony Watson, who led the Great West in rushing with 1,088 yards.

Watson will likely shoulder the early offensive load as the Jackrabbits break in a new quarterback to replace Brad Nelson (2,225 yards, 20 TDs). Three QBs were vying for the spot in spring practice. Receiver Josh Davis (619 yards, 5 TDs) already has the school record for career receptions with 176. Eight starters return on defense.

The services of WR Vincent Jackson have left Northern Colorado for the NFL, and with him goes a lot of the Bears' offense. Jackson was sixth among I-AA receivers in yards (1,382) last year and scored 11 TDs. His offensive production isn't going to be replaced by any one player returning—especially since the only experienced receiver back (Cory Sleeth) totaled just 172 yards last season.

Jackson also had the ability to make QB Tony Christensen look good—but opposing defenses feasted on him at other times. The junior has 32 interceptions in the last two years—including 19 last season—against 26 TDs. He'll need to cut down dramatically on the picks for the Aggies to have any shot at improving on their 2-9 mark from '04.



## Behind arm of McDermott and legs of Mathews, Quakers look to capture fourth title in six years

By Chuck Newman  
Street & Smith's Correspondent

It is starting to border on redundancy. Harvard or Penn. Ivy League champions five straight years. And six of the last eight years.

There may be no end in sight. Both figure to be contenders again this season.

As usual, there seems to be other preseason contenders. Or maybe just pretenders, as they have been in the past. Count Brown as a threat this season ... maybe Yale ... maybe even Cornell.

Harvard will be without quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick, one of the league's all-time lethal weapons, and a seventh-round NFL draft pick to boot. But the Crimson returns running back Clifton Dawson, an All-America candidate who led the league in rushing.

Penn, despite key losses, returns quarterback Patrick McDermott and running back Sam Mathews, a sure all-league candidate.

The most interesting story could be Brown, which returns nine players whose names appeared on the All-Ivy first- or second-team list last year.

**Penn**, loser to only Harvard last season, must replace several key starters and other contributors from a senior class that had the highest winning percentage in school (.897) and league history (.929).

Major casualties include Penn's all-time leading wide receiver, Dan Castles, a first-team all-leaguer who had 70 catches last season; and offensive linemen Erik Curtis and Michael Pierce, who helped the team lead the league in passing offense and was second only to Harvard in total offense.

The losses are also tough on defense, where first-team All-Ivy cornerback Duval Thompson, who played in the Hula Bowl, and fifth-year starter Kevin Stefanski have moved on.

But never count out a team coached by Al Bagnoli. The Quakers will not be without weapons, especially at quarterback where McDermott, who threw for 1,995 yards and 12 touchdowns while being intercepted a league-low five times in 294 attempts, will be back to lead what should be a highly productive and versatile offense.

The running game will be in the capable hands of Mathews, a second-team all-leaguer who gained 716 yards and averaged 4.0 yards a carry. Kyle Ambrogi and Duke transfer Von Bryant will back up Mathews.

On defense, Kory Gedin, a transfer from North Carolina who had 61 tackles (41 solo), will see more playing time.

If experience is going to dictate the eventual champion, **Brown** looks like the favorite with the return of nine

all-league players, especially first-team wideout Jarrett Schreck, running back Nick Hartigan and linebacker Zak DeOssie.

Schreck caught 62 passes for a league-high 1,035 yards in 2004, while Hartigan, a Walter Payton Award candidate, was second in the league in rushing with 126.3 yards a game while carrying the ball a league high 323 times. He also established school records with 102 points and 17 touchdowns.

DeOssie, as a sophomore, tied for third in the league in tackles with 98 and 3.5 sacks to help the Bruins to the second-best defense in the league. Another key returnee is second-team all-league lineman James Frazier, who led the league in tackles for loss (14).

Harvard likely won't repeat the overall statistical dominance of last season. Duplicating a perfect league and overall record, making no-contests of games against league contenders Penn and Yale and giving up a league-best 13.4 points a game would seem to be unrealistic.

There will be experience on defense but the offensive philosophy will surely change. Liam O'Hagan and Chris Pizzotti have the opportunity to succeed Fitzpatrick, who was impressive enough at the NFL Combine in March to earn his seventh-round selection by the St. Louis Rams.

The offensive focus likely shifts to the running game of Dawson, an All-American who led the league with 130.2 yards a game and may exceed his 24.8 carries a game until the passing game develops.

After becoming only the second team in Ivy history to go from being winless in league play (0-7) to having a winning record (4-3) the next season, **Cornell** could be a factor under second-year coach Jim Knowles. Or at least be a spoiler.

The Big Red's momentum should carry into this season since they return seven starters from a defense that ranked ninth nationally against the run in 2004, along with seven starters on offense.

The linchpin for the offense will be 6-5, 300-pound senior lineman Kevin Boothe, a unanimous first-team All-Ivy choice who is an All-America candidate and definite pro prospect. Another key to the offense is the return of wideout Brian Romney, a first-team all-league candidate who had 60 catches for 766 yards last season.

There are big questions for **Yale** to find a successor to quarterback Alvin Cowan, who led the league in passing yardage (2,140) and threw a league-high 16 touchdown passes.

A top candidate for the job appears to be Jeff Mroz, who took a leave of absence from the school last year but has 1,757 yards on his passing resume. Todd Feiereisen, who backed up Cowan last season, and sophomore Matt Polhemus are other possibilities.



1. Penn
2. Brown
3. Harvard
4. Cornell
5. Yale
6. Princeton
7. Dartmouth
8. Columbia

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Clifton Dawson, RB, Harvard
Defense	Justin Stull, LB, Princeton
Newcomer	Zach Copple, OL, Harvard

### GAMES TO WATCH

09.24.05	Brown at Harvard
10.22.05	Yale at Penn
10.29.05	Penn at Brown
11.19.05	Harvard at Yale

A capable successor must also be found for tailback Robert Carr, who had 118.5 yards a game rushing last season while carrying the ball 252 times, second most in the league. David Knox, who missed all of last season with an injury, is the best candidate to take over after averaging 5.1 yards per carry as a sophomore.

**Princeton** won five games last season, a three-game improvement over 2003, but yet another year saw the Tigers as a non-factor in the Ivy race. They haven't been league champions in 10 years and that trend figures to continue this season.

The Tigers placed five players on the all-league first and second teams in 2004, and first-team linebacker Zak Keasey, who led the league in tackles, and second-team offensive lineman Jeremy Moore have graduated.

Linebacker should be the strength of the Tigers. Justin Stull, who ranked second in the league with 106 tackles, returns along with Abi Fadeyi and Alan Borelli at a position that could be as strong a unit as any in the league. Another key returnee is cornerback Jay McCareins, who played on both sides of the ball last season.

**Dartmouth**, which hasn't been a factor since winning the league title in 1996 and finishing second in 1997, is under new management in Buddy Teevens, who coached Big Green title teams in 1990 and 1991. Teevens returns after head-coaching stints at Tulane and Stanford.

The new coach will have some weapons on defense, especially in end Anthony Gargiulo, a first-team All-Ivy pick who led the league with 12 sacks and prompted double teams by offenses all season.

Third-year coach Bob Shoop will be facing the usual problems on both sides of the ball at **Columbia**, as the Lions try to improve on a one-win season.

The situation is exacerbated by the graduation of nearly the entire offensive line, including third-team All-America tight end Wade Fletcher, who led the league at his position in both catches and yards.

The loss of first-team all-league tackle Michael Quarshie won't help a defense that ranked last in points allowed for 2004.





1.	La Salle
2.	Duquesne
3.	Marist
4.	Saint Peter's
5.	Iona



## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	John Zabel, WR, La Salle
Defense	Josh Antinopoulos, DT, Duquesne
Newcomer	Drestes Medina, DB, La Salle

## GAMES TO WATCH

10.08.05	La Salle at Marist
10.15.05	Saint Peter's at Duquesne
10.29.05	Marist at Saint Peter's
11.05.05	La Salle at Duquesne

## With a new coach and QB at Duquesne, title door may open up for the Explorers

By Steve Amedio  
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

Duquesne has won the last five Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference regular-season championships and returns 16 starters from the team that finished 4-0 in league play and 7-3 overall.

But, this season, there appears to be cracks in the gridiron armor. The usually dominant Dukes need to replace two key losses in four-year starting quarterback Niel Loebig and 12-year head coach (and seventh-time MAAC Coach of the Year) Greg Gattuso, who moved on to become the recruiting coordinator and tight ends coach at Pitt.

It might be enough for someone else to take control of the MAAC. If any team can, it would be La Salle, which averaged 34 points per game against MAAC opponents last year including 35 in a shoot-out loss (56-35) to Duquesne last season.

The Explorers finished ranked 22nd in total offense among Division I-AA schools and led the MAAC in scoring, passing and total offense. And every key offensive player returns.

Expect more of the same from offensive-minded coach Phil Longo, who didn't join the program until March 2004, less than six months before the start of last season. His team should be considerably more adept at running the spread-shotgun set that utilizes four or five receivers.

The key for La Salle (3-7 overall, 1-3 MAAC) is how much better it can get defensively. It allowed 34 or more points in six of its 10 games last year. The team has a new defensive coordinator in Phil Petite, and has nearly as many returnees as the offense.

Nebraska transfer Aaron Burbach will strengthen the offensive line and help protect sophomore quarterback Michael Jump, who threw for 459 yards in his first start a year ago and should be even better.

Jump will be handing the ball to either Steven Adelman or Josh Brumfield.

On the receiving end of Jump's passes will be John Zabel, probably the league's top split end. Also back are pass catchers Lou Russo and Greg Vacarro, each of whom has started every game since arriving at La Salle.

Having a year in Petite's defensive system, Marshall transfer Chris Twardy will bolster the linebacking unit. They'll get plenty of defensive help from defensive end JJ Luney, who was an impact freshman last season.

La Salle's Nov. 5 contest at Duquesne is likely to decide this year's MAAC title. It figures to be another high-scoring affair, but the Explorers look capable of finally coming out on top.

But if Duquesne can find a replacement for Loebig, who became just the fifth player in I-AA history with more than 10,000 passing yards (10,254) and 100 touchdown passes (103), it might just shred La Salle's defense again.

That difficult task falls to new coach Jerry Schmitt, a former offensive coordinator for the Dukes who spent the last five seasons as head coach at Division III Westminster College.

During spring practice, junior Ben Palumbo and three redshirt freshmen were battling for the spot.

Whoever wins that battle will fit into an offense that returns a number of talented skill-position players, including three-time 2004 MAAC Rookie of the Week Bruce Hocker (35 catches, 577 yards) and junior Dan Spriggs (41, 428).

The Dukes' top two running backs, juniors James Jacobs (687 yards, 9 TDs) and Jeremy McCullough (683, 3), also return.

The offensive line includes three returning first-team All-MAAC players in seniors center Matt Bovich and tackles Josh Martin and Brad Salvatore.

The defense has nine starters back from a unit that ranked 14th nationally in total

defense. The key defensive returnees are a pair of two-time consensus I-AA Mid-Major All-Americans: 6-2, 265-pound senior defensive tackle Josh Antinopoulos and 6-1, 235-pound Harry Carter.

Marist (3-6, 3-1) was the MAAC's second-best team last year, played Duquesne tougher than any other league opponent (losing 7-3) and shouldn't fall off much with 18 returning starters.

Among the key returnees is the MAAC's Offensive Rookie of the Year, running back Obozua Ehikioya, who gained 686 yards last season, including 246 in a 41-35 victory at La Salle. Gone is quarterback James Luft, who threw for 944 yards and seven touchdowns last season, and his replacement will be inexperienced sophomore Michael Sangiorgi. The top returning receiver is senior Guy Smith, who had 31 receptions a year ago. The offensive line is anchored by first-team All-MAAC right guard Steve Van Soest.

Defensively the standout is Matt Grande, a defensive lineman who made 37 tackles last season.

Saint Peter's (3-7, 1-3) looks to be improved over a year ago, particularly with the return of senior tailback Sean Mayers, who rushed for a school-record 1,546 yards last season and was second nationally in I-AA with 154.6 yards per game. Those numbers helped him share honors for MAAC Offensive Player of the Year.

Offensive help to take some of the load off Mayers will come from sophomore QB Scott Bonnono (48-of-112, 626 yards, 6 TDs), who started midway through the season, and an offensive line that returns four starters.

Defensively, team captain and lineman Walter Berbeck and undersized 5-8, 190-pound linebacker Dave Dyson, who plays much bigger (87 tackles, 14 for losses), are the anchors.

Iona (2-8, 1-3) will likely battle the Peacocks to avoid the cellar, but it has some strong players, particularly on the offensive side, returning.

Senior quarterback Michael Biehl passed for 1,251 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, and has his top two receivers back, including senior Dennis Calacione, who is on pace to become the school's all-time leader in receiving yards.

Junior Rudy Arcara, a 5-11, 185-pound running back, gained 1,125 yards, second best in the conference last season and set a school single-game record with 313 yards in a win over La Salle.

Defensively, lineman Cedric Johnson, who finished second in the conference with nine sacks last season, should be a force. The defensive backfield is also strong with Alex LoGerfo, Franco Garcia and Brett Sohns, who also averaged 21.9 yards per kick return in 2004.



## Monmouth looks to make it three straight, but look for Colonials to reclaim the top spot

By Steve Amedio  
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

Once-proud Robert Morris seems ready to reclaim superiority of the Northeast Conference after a four-year dry spell.

The Colonials, who ruled the league for the first five years of its existence (capturing the NEC title from 1996-2000), haven't exactly fallen on tough times, although a league record of 15-13 over the past four seasons isn't up to its earlier standards.

But last year looks like a solid launchpad for a return to past glory for the program whose stadium is named after its coach, Joe Walton.

Walton, the only coach in the program's history, previously played and coached in the NFL for 35 seasons, including a stint as head coach of the New York Jets.

Walton clearly knows a little about the sport and what to do with a talent-laden roster. He has one this season with 19 starters returning at **Robert Morris** (6-5 overall, 3-4 NEC). The Colonials weren't that far removed from title contention a year ago, as evidenced by a two-point loss to NEC champ Monmouth, and the returning experience should be enough to propel the program back into its former role as a conference power.

Defensively, the Colonials are solid, particularly at linebacker with the return of NEC Defensive Player-of-the-Year James Noel, whose 115 tackles set a school record and marked the third straight season he has had 100 or more tackles.

Junior Jeff Rommes, who'll move from strong safety to linebacker this season, is one of the hardest-hitting defenders in the league, while 6-2, 290-pound senior Jason Forrest, a first-team All-NEC selection last season, anchors the defensive line.

Offensively, senior quarterback Drew Geyer was strong a year ago, establishing single-season school records for attempts and completions (187-for-361) and passing yards (2,601).

He'll be protected by an offensive line that returns all five starters and has standout targets in all-conference tight end Rupert Rickards and flanker Tyjuan Massey, who set school records last year for receptions (43) and receiving yards (763).

**Albany** (4-7, 4-3) had as much talent as any team in the league a year ago and might again this year despite some key losses on the offensive line and at quarterback.

However, the offensive line returns some key (and big) players in 6-6, 285-pound second-team all-conference pick Jacob Anderson, 6-3, 310-pound Aaron Kimball, 6-3, 280-pound Sam Pagano and 6-1, 260-pound center Pierce Brennan. Tight end Eddie Unverzagt also has the size and agility

to be an all-conference candidate.

Talented redshirt freshmen Dan Bocanegra and Jason Boltus battled for the quarterback job in spring drills.

The defensive unit should benefit from the return of an experienced group that adjusted to playing a multiple scheme last season. Sophomore Colin Disch, a 6-1, 208-pound linebacker, was the NEC's Defensive Rookie of the Year. Both starting cornerbacks (Kamar Elliott and Ryan Chrobak, a second-team All-NEC pick) return.

**Monmouth** (10-1, 6-1) was the NEC's most dominant team last season, but no program was hit harder by graduation.

The Hawks had 11 players picked as either a first- or second-team All-NEC selections a year ago, and only have five of those returning.

But those five—wide receiver Miles Austin, punter Sean Dennis, offensive lineman John Castoro, linebacker Mike Castellano and defensive back Nick Castellano—provide a solid nucleus for the two-time defending champions.

Austin, a two-time All-NEC first team choice, posted the fifth-best receiving yardage total in NEC history last year (859 yards, 47 catches) while scoring nine touchdowns. Dennis averaged a league-best 40.1 yards per punt. Mike Castellano, a junior, had 13.5 tackles for loss (second in the NEC), while senior safety Nick Castellano had 81 tackles.

**Central Connecticut State** (8-2, 6-1) earned a share of last season's NEC title with the best season in the history of its program, but will be hard-pressed to duplicate that after losing four-year starting quarterback Scott Dolch and cornerback Chris Blackshear, the NEC's all-time leader in interceptions (19).

There is enough returning, though, to keep CCSU competitive, including the return of last year's NEC Offensive Player of the Year, junior running back Cory Harge, who rushed for 1,032 yards and scored 14 total touchdowns.

The Blue Devils also had the NEC's Rookie of the Year in wide receiver Andre Smith (32 catches, 556 yards).

Key defensive returnees are a pair of standout senior linebackers: Coree Tucker (89 tackles, 4 sacks, 3 interceptions) and Ryan Nichols (26, 4, 2).

**Wagner** (6-5, 3-4) was better than its record a year ago, losing two games in overtime and two others by eight or fewer points. A couple of breaks and the Seahawks could easily move into contention this season, particularly with seven starters back on offense and nine on defense.

Wagner's skill players are back on offense, including senior quarterback John Sciarra (2,581 yards, 14 TDs), who set numerous school records last season and might be the



1. Robert Morris
2. Albany
3. Monmouth
4. Central Connecticut
5. Wagner
6. Sacred Heart
7. Stony Brook
8. St. Francis (Pa.)

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	<b>Cory Harge</b> , RB, Central Connecticut
Defense	<b>James Noel</b> , LB, Robert Morris
Newcomer	<b>Tyler Arciaga</b> , QB, Sacred Heart

### GAMES TO WATCH

10.08.05	<b>Wagner at Robert Morris</b>
10.22.05	<b>Robert Morris at Monmouth</b>
11.05.05	<b>Robert Morris at Albany</b>
11.12.05	<b>Albany at Monmouth</b>

league's top QB. His top targets also return. Junior wide receiver Chris Turner caught 61 passes last season, including a school-record 15 in one game, and senior Shaun Grover had 50 catches. Junior tailback Warren Barnett (845 yards, 9 TDs) provides a solid ground game.

Defensively, the top returnees are senior defensive back Tony Smith, who had six interceptions last season, and senior linebacker Craig Romano (126 tackles).

**Sacred Heart** (6-4, 3-4) should be solid again, particularly on offense where the NEC's top rusher last season, senior tailback Ed Pricolo (1,339 rushing yards, 14 TDs), returns. He'll get offensive help from returning junior QB Dan Ammel (1,538 passing yards, 15 TDs) and junior wide receiver Joey Henley, who led the team with 31 catches.

The offense could also get a lift from quarterback Tyler Arciaga of Bonita, Calif., who graduated from UNLV in three years and is enrolled in graduate school. He has two years of eligibility remaining and is expected to play a role this season.

Defensively, the top returnee is junior linebacker Jon Corto (74 tackles).

**Stony Brook** (3-7, 2-5) opened up strong, handing Monmouth its only league loss last season, and then faded. But only two of its losses were by more than 10 points.

The team's top offensive player is mammoth junior left guard Leo Sullivan (6-3, 300 pounds). Tailback Rod Williams also returns.

The Seahawks suffered extensive losses on their defensive front, but have some solid returnees in linebackers Chris Tomasky and Mike Mounter, and defensive backs Kameron Sterling, Ray Goodsir, Frank Rivera and Justin Hubbard.

**St. Francis** (3-8, 1-6) ended last season on a six-game losing streak, but three of those losses were by a touchdown or less. Offensively, junior wide receiver Luke Palko (brother of Pittsburgh QB Tyler Palko) ranked fourth nationally in I-AA with 7.5 catches per game and had 82 receptions on the year. Junior QB Anthony Doria delivered most of those throws, connecting on 190 of 364 passes (2,115 yards).





1. Jacksonville State
2. Eastern Kentucky
3. Murray State
4. Eastern Illinois
5. Tennessee Tech
6. Samford
7. Southeast Missouri
8. Tennessee State
9. Tennessee-Martin

## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Vincent Webb, RB, Eastern Illinois
Defense	Yusuf Sharif, DE, Tennessee Tech
Newcomer	Justin Midgett, QB, Eastern Illinois

## GAMES TO WATCH

09.01.05	Furman at Jacksonville State
10.01.05	Eastern Kentucky at Jacksonville St.
11.05.05	Eastern Kentucky at Murray State
11.19.05	Eastern Illinois at Jacksonville State

## Jacksonville State looks for OVC three-peat in '05

By Michael Grant

The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

Last season's race for the Ohio Valley Conference was close, but Jacksonville State fended off challenges from Eastern Kentucky and Murray State, which finished one game behind. This year could be more of the same as Jacksonville State seeks to stay on top.

Since joining the league in 2003, Jacksonville State (9-2 overall, 7-1 OVC) has dominated the Ohio Valley, winning consecutive league championships outright. The Gamecocks became the first team to turn that trick since Tennessee State (1998-99). The last team to win three straight outright championships was Eastern Kentucky, which had a string of four from 1981 to 1984.

Can Jacksonville State get that kind of three-peat? Recent history says it has a good chance. It has gone 14-2 in OVC play, with losses at Murray State (23-17 in overtime) in 2003 and at Tennessee Tech (16-13) last year. The Gamecocks lose All-America tailback Oscar Bonds and center John Pettus, but there's no reason to believe that there will be a slip in the team's overall performance.

The defense should be strong again with senior linebacker Lamarcus Rowell (57 tackles, 5 sacks), junior safety Kenny Brown, senior safety Haneef Haqq (56 tackles) and senior linebacker Leroy Clark (47).

Jacksonville State surrendered the fewest TDs (29) and second-fewest points per game (21.2) in the OVC last year.

Offensively, senior quarterback Maurice Mullins might be asked to do more with Bonds gone. Mullins led the league in passing efficiency (147.7).

Quarterback instability prevented Eastern Kentucky (6-5, 6-2) from having the 2004 season most expected, as the Colonels were the preseason pick to win the league. A chronic sore throwing shoulder kept Matt Guice

out for a large part of the season. Eastern rebounded from a poor start to finish one game out of first place and notch its 27th consecutive winning season.

Eastern's success this season might hinge on the growth of sophomore quarterback Josh Greco. Forced into action a little quicker than coach Danny Hope would have liked, Greco had a rough first season. He threw only four touchdowns to 10 interceptions.

Seven of those interceptions came in a loss to Western Kentucky.

Hope says Greco is delivering the ball with more confidence. He certainly should have plenty of weapons to work with. Senior wide receiver Andre Ralston's numbers (36 catches, 611 yards, 5 TDs) suffered a bit because of the quarterback problems. He has the potential to be one of the finest I-AA receivers in the country.

They like to jest in the athletic department that Murray State (7-4, 6-2) uses a six-legged tailback. No, coach Joe Pannunzio doesn't have a mythological beast on scholarship. He does have a deep stable of runners.

Murray unleashed its vaunted trio of Chad "Tank" Cook, Ron Lane and Nick Turner last season with tremendous results. All three finished among the top 10 in the league in rushing yards. Cook (834 yards, 11 TDs) is a strong inside runner. Lane (746, 7) is a gifted runner and receiver with speed. Turner (746, 7), a transfer from Mississippi State, has a good combination of strength and agility. The group helped make the Racers the second-best rushing team in the OVC (219.4 yards per game).

Pannunzio would like to be a little less one-dimensional. Murray had the fewest TD passes (8) in the league and the second-fewest passing yards per game (167.7). Quarterback Adam Fisher, who threw for 1,485 yards and seven touchdowns in 2004, is back, but will have competition from newcomer Ken Topps.

Looking for a team that could surprise? It might be Eastern Illinois (5-6, 4-4). The Panthers brought in Florida transfer Justin Midgett to juice up the offense at quarterback. Midgett will have to overcome missing a good portion of spring football due to academic issues. He also hasn't played the past two seasons at Florida. The 6-foot-3, 199-pounder has the pedigree for success, having come from one of the premier I-A programs.

If Midgett isn't ready, Mike Donato will try to fill the shoes left by departed starter Matt Schabert. The Panthers have nine starters back on offense. Junior tailback Vincent Webb (1,106 yards, 12 touchdowns) is the second-leading rusher among OVC returnees. He will share carries with Ademola Adeniji (545 yards).

Junior wide receiver Ryan Voss (46 catches, 784 yards, 7 TDs) is the leading returning receiver in terms of yards. Eastern Illinois finished second in points per game

last season (26.5). So if the team can find a quarterback, it should be potent again.

Tennessee Tech (6-5, 3-4) has good skill-position personnel, especially at wide receiver with sophomore Larry Shipp (41 catches, 441 yards) and junior Brent McNeal (42 catches, 565 yards, 8 TDs). But who will throw the ball to them with three-year starter Robert Craft gone? Four returnees and two walk-ons will be on hand to vie for the quarterback job. Returning from last year are sophomore Steven Britton, junior Joey Bailey and redshirt freshmen John Conrad McCrary and Matthew Solima.

Defensively, senior defensive end Yusuf Sharif can wreak havoc. Last year, he finished with 13 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks. Sharif also racked up 55 tackles and two forced fumbles.

After finishing in the bottom third in OVC rushing (129.5 yards per game), Samford (4-7, 3-5) will try to get a little more out of its running game. Quarterback Ray Nelson (2,830 passing yards, 16 passing TDs, 799 rushing yards, 12 rushing TDs) is gone. But junior Justin Ray is moving from defensive back to tailback. During a spring scrimmage, Ray rushed 12 times for 122 yards and two touchdowns, with one being a 60-yarder. Coach Bill Gray says that Ray is still learning the position and trying to become a more instinctive runner.

The secondary was a weakness last year as Southeast Missouri (3-8, 3-5) gave up a league-worst 2,733 passing yards and 19 touchdown passes. With better health in the defensive backfield, the Redhawks are hoping to improve there. Senior defensive backs Mike Miller and Marco Tipton both missed last year with leg injuries. The Redhawks also added former Oklahoma defensive assistant Joe Dan Rogers to coach the secondary.

James Webster Jr. was named Tennessee State's new coach in January. He had served the past four seasons at his alma mater, North Carolina, as assistant head coach and special-teams coordinator. Webster will be trying to bring the Tigers (4-7, 2-5) back to the days when they won consecutive OVC titles (1998-99). Tennessee State won't have Charles Anthony (1,739 yards, 14 TDs), the league's Offensive Player of the Year in 2004 and the school's second all-time leading rusher. It will have quarterback Bryson Rosser (1,219 passing yards, 10 TDs, 6 INTs).

As expected, coach Matt Griffin's first season at Tennessee-Martin (2-9, 1-7) was rough. The team got its only league victory at home over Eastern Illinois, 32-14. Then it proceeded to drop three straight, falling to Southeast Missouri, Eastern Kentucky and Murray State by a combined score of 114-21.

The Skyhawks do have some building blocks. Donald Chapman finished fourth in the league in rushing as a freshman with 1,084 yards and seven TDs. Junior wideout Taurean Stephens had 67 catches last year.



## Rising from the ashes, Leopards try to repeat— but archrival Lehigh will have its say come November

By Ed Laubach

Easton (Pa.) Express-Times

Given up for dead in 1999—when Lafayette College discussed dropping football or possibly moving its athletics to Division III—the Leopards came full circle last fall. Coach Frank Tavani was the architect of Lafayette's first Patriot League championship since 1994 and its first trip to the I-AA playoffs. The Leopards went 8-4 while playing seven games on the road and never losing on back-to-back weeks. Lafayette clinched the title in the final regular-season game by defeating archrival Lehigh, which also went to the playoffs for the second time in coach Pete Lembo's four seasons.

Lafayette's five-year transition from the ashes—and coming on the heels of a 5-6, sixth-place finish in 2003—underscored the growing parity in an academics-first league.

"This league is very close, and we're as close as anybody," says Georgetown coach Bob Benson, whose Hoyas went 3-8 and finished last in the league. "Lafayette doesn't worry me. We beat 'em last year (2003) and came close this year (2004). Lehigh is the team to beat. Don't let anybody fool you."

Lafayette got it done through pure grit and a small group of seniors that had seen it all, beginning with a 2-8 finish as freshmen. The Leopards were the least-penalized team in the country and remained relatively free of injuries. Tavani has a large group back and enough depth to repeat.

The champion probably will be crowned around dusk Nov. 19 in Bethlehem, Pa., where Lafayette and Lehigh meet for the 141st time.

**Lehigh**, which has won eight or more games in the last seven years while winning or sharing five Patriot League championships, should be at or near the top again after leading the league in most of the important statistical categories. The Mountain Hawks went on an eight-game winning streak after a Week Two loss to Villanova and advanced to the I-AA playoffs as the league's No. 2 team. Six second-team all-league players are the rallying points—quarterback Mark Borda, running back Eric Rath, wide receiver Gerran Walker and guard Adam Selmasska on offense, and cornerback Andrew Nelson and safety Kaloma Cardwell on defense.

Borda is the league's top returning offensive player, having thrown for 2,682 yards, 24 touchdowns and only six interceptions last year. Rath rushed for 993 yards and 5-foot-5 Marques Thompson is a nice changeup who added 463 yards and was second on the team in TD receptions (6). Coach Lembo will get another season from linebacker Anthony Graziani, a fifth-year senior who led the Mountain Hawks with 111 tackles in 2004.

**Lafayette** should not miss a beat with quarterback Brad Maurer and the entire receiving corps back. The Leopards also have a set of all-league linebackers in Maurice Bennett and Blake Costanzo, who combined for 212 tackles and 9.5 sacks last season. Bennett, patrolling the middle, also had more than 100 tackles in 2003.

Maurer kept defenses guessing the whole season by throwing for 1,313 yards, rushing for 643 and scoring 15 touchdowns.

Brandon Stanford led Lafayette's receivers with 33 catches and was the league's No. 2 punt returner. The receiving corps welcomes the return of Archie Fisher, whose hamstring injury kept him out of all but two games. Seven of his 22 career catches have gone for touchdowns. The Leopards graduated 4,474-yard career rusher Joe McCourt but replace him with Jonathan Hurt, who got four starts last fall. Offensive tackle Drew Buettner returns to shore up the line. Another player to watch is defensive end Marvin Snipes, who had six sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss last season.

The marquee names (Chris Brown, Jamaal Branch and Luke Graham) of the 2003 **Colgate** team that advanced to the Division I-AA Championship Game may be gone, but coach Dick Biddle fully expects to be playing for another postseason berth. The Raiders, experienced on both lines, will ride a defensive unit that led the league in total defense for the second year in a row. Linebacker Jared Nepa and strong safety Geoff Bean were second-team all-league players. Bean had a breakout sophomore year with 80 tackles and six interceptions.

Mark Mushel, a 307-pound left tackle, is the veteran on an offensive line that allowed the fewest sacks (15) in the league. Quarterback is anybody's guess. Lee Sloan appeared in four games. A name to watch is Alex Relph, freshman son of Bob Relph, Colgate's starting quarterback for the 1976-77 squads that went a combined 18-3.

**Bucknell** coach Tim Landis hopes his team is the one to emerge from the pack like Lafayette did last year. Defensive end Sean Conover, middle linebacker Dorian Petersen and athletic cornerback Dante Ross lead a stellar defense that Landis hopes can stabilize the Bison until sophomore quarterbacks Terrance Wilson and Ryan Ahern get a few varsity snaps. Conover, a converted tight end, was the league's Defensive Player of the Year after collecting 10.5 sacks and finishing third in the country in forced fumbles (0.45 per game). Ross, the Patriot League's Special Teams Player of the Year in 2004, is an outstanding cover corner who led the league in punt and kickoff returns.

The Bison have questions in their spread-option offense, not the least of which is



1. Lehigh
2. Lafayette
3. Colgate
4. Bucknell
5. Holy Cross
6. Fordham
7. Georgetown

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Mark Borda, QB, Lehigh
Defense	Maurice Bennett, LB, Lafayette
Newcomer	Kimbrick Baker, WR, Fordham

### GAMES TO WATCH

10.22.05	Lehigh at Bucknell
10.29.05	Lehigh at Colgate
11.05.05	Colgate at Lafayette
11.19.05	Lafayette at Lehigh

quarterback, where everyone is untested. Fullback Blamah Sarnor rushed for 928 yards as a sophomore and looked to have a stellar junior season, but missed the last eight games with a broken kneecap.

**Holy Cross** has quarterback John O'Neil, tailbacks Steve Silva and Gideon Akande and other weapons to put up points, but will the Crusaders be able to improve on last year's dismal defensive performance? They again ranked last in total defense while allowing more than 33 points a game. Silva led the team in both rushing yards (708) and receptions (60 for 507 yards), becoming the first at his school since Gordie Lockbaum in 1986 to lead the team in both categories. He also led the league in all-purpose yards for a 3-8 club. O'Neil passed for 2,022 yards and 18 touchdowns in a new system under first-year coach Tom Gilmore after throwing for 2,573 as a sophomore.

Coach Ed Foley of **Fordham** checked off seven areas where his team was lacking last year—all stemming from inexperience. The Rams lost five of their last six games after getting off to a 4-1 start. Of greatest concern, Foley says, is that the Rams were last in rushing. In the passing game, however, quarterback Derric Daniels set Fordham records for a first-year player—1,876 passing yards for 23 touchdowns.

Micah Clukey was a first-team all-league placekicker—10-of-12 with a long of 44 yards. Tight end James Caffarello and punter Anthony DiFino were second-team selections. The Rams have holes to fill on defense after losing five starters. Jay Edwards is a returning starter at end and Reshard Hicks, Greg Whelan and Tommie Stephens are veterans in the secondary.

**Georgetown** coach Benson sees only progress—and the start of construction on a \$32 million stadium that will open in 2006—after a 3-8 season in which the Hoyas went winless in six league games. The third-best team in total defense returns nine starters, including the league's best set of ends in Michael Ononibaku and Alex Buzbee.



## NORTH

1. Drake
2. Dayton
3. San Diego
4. Valparaiso
5. Butler

## SOUTH

1. Morehead State
2. Austin Peay State
3. Jacksonville
4. Davidson

## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Scott Phaydavong, RB, Drake
Defense	Kwesi Williams, DB, Morehead State
Newcomer	Brian Clarke, WR, San Diego

## GAMES TO WATCH

10.08.05	Dayton at Drake
10.15.05	Austin Peay State at Morehead State
10.22.05	Drake at San Diego

## Don't expect any title pioneering; Drake, Dayton still cream of PFL crop

By Matt McKenzie

Street and Smith's Staff Writer

In the Pioneer Football League, "D" stands for "domination," which is exactly what Drake and Dayton have done in this circuit since its inception.

In 12 of the football-only conference's 13 years, either the Flyers or Bulldogs have won at least a share of the regular-season crown or were champions of the conference title game, which began in 2001. Valparaiso won the Pioneer League Championship Game in 2003, but order was restored last season when Drake won its first PFL title showdown, 20-17 over Morehead State.

"We've competed against Dayton for 16 years, even when we weren't in the same conference," Drake coach Rob Ash says. "It's a great rivalry and the way we compete against each other has raised our respective levels. They're always a good standard to judge by and it's gratifying to know we're on pretty equal footing."

The two squads will again be battling it out in the North Division, along with up-and-coming San Diego, coached by former NFL quarterback Jim Harbaugh. Those three teams play one another three consecutive weeks in October, and the one that emerges with the least amount of damage will likely have the inside track to the PFL title game and, ultimately, the championship. In the South, look for youthful Austin Peay State to bring a strong challenge to Morehead State, but the Eagles will prevail and take the division for the fourth straight year.

This league will see a change in 2006, as this is Austin Peay's final year in the PFL. Beginning next year, the Governors will take up residence in the Ohio Valley Conference.

## NORTH DIVISION

The Drake Bulldogs return two key components of last year's championship team, beginning with sophomore running back Scott Phaydavong, who finished sixth

last year among all I-AA rushers with 1,539 yards. Phaydavong was also selected to the I-AA All-America Team. At quarterback, Drake welcomes back third-year starter Connor Jostes, who had his second straight season of throwing for 2,000 yards or more. He also added 19 touchdowns.

Drake's defense returns eight starters and is a unit Ash thinks can be just as good as last year's squad that ranked second in the PFL in both points allowed per game (16.7) and total defense (298.8 yards per game).

Dayton's 7-3 record in 2004 marked the Flyers' 28th straight winning season, a streak matched only by Florida State. The Flyers return sophomore Kevin Hoyng, who threw for 504 yards and six TDs in 2004. Wideout Ryan Wroblewski is also back after accounting for 934 yards and nine TDs last year.

Linebacker Jon Hoppe, an All-PFL pick who was second on the team in tackles (57), will be called upon to provide leadership for a depleted defense that lost eight starters.

Scoring points wasn't a problem last year at San Diego, as the Toreros led the league with 36.1 points per game and just over 432 total yards a contest. But coach Harbaugh must now replace quarterback Todd Mortensen (2,874 yards, 25 TDs), who shared the PFL North Offensive Player of the Year award with Phaydavong.

Running back Evan Harney will be back for his final season after setting a school record with 18 rushing TDs last year, averaging 121.3 yards a game in the process.

Linebacker Kyson Hawkins (73 tackles, 3 sacks) will lead the Toreros' seven returning defensive starters.

Times could be tough this season for Valparaiso, which is just two years removed from its first PFL championship. The Crusaders lost their biggest offensive threat in receiver Rob Giancola, who finished his career at Valparaiso with a total of 40 touchdowns, a school record.

Valpo may have to rely on its running game, which features junior tailback Jeff Horton (803 yards, 5 TDs). The starting QB job will go to Ryan Doerffler or Dustin Shamburg, both of whom saw significant time in 2004. Cornerback Brad Smeja, an All-PFL North first-team pick who led the team in tackles (79), returns to anchor the defense.

Butler has won just three games in the last three years, and will have another uphill struggle this season. Senior Bob Farmer, who attempted just 11 passes all of last season, will have the upper hand to take over the starting QB role and will try to rejuvenate an offense that last season scored just 10.7 points a game. The Bulldogs do return tailback Billy Nardini, whose five TDs led the team in 2004.

Senior David McMahon (five tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks) leads a defensive unit that ranked near the bottom of all league statistics.

## SOUTH DIVISION

The running game at Morehead State should be solid—but the question remains of what to do with all of the productive halfbacks. Because of numerous injuries in the running game last year (11 players had at least 10 carries), a number of players were tried out during the season at the position.

Fullback Jabari McGee ended up leading the team in rushing (564 yards, 7 TDs), and was an all-league pick. Senior Tyler Cvitkovic returns as the team's leading TD passer (7 last season), but he'll face some competition from Marty Dorcich and Brian Yost, both of whom saw time in 2004.

On the other side of the ball, the Eagles will have to do without PFL co-Defensive Player of the Year Craig Unger, who led the league in sacks (6) and tackles for loss (16). However, defensive back Kwesi Williams returns. The senior tied for second in the PFL with five interceptions, while adding 81 tackles and three forced fumbles in '04.

Patience could finally pay off this year for Austin Peay State, which has suffered through losing seasons in 19 of the last 20 campaigns, including a 2-9 record in 2004. However, the Governors have the duo of quarterback Jesse Kellogg and running back Chris Fletcher back, as the two were both selected All-PFL South in 2004.

The Governors' defensive front should be OK, with all-league selection Steven Young joining fellow end Jordan Richardson and tackles Matt Wade and Drew Wilson.

The coaching staff at Jacksonville was thrown for a loop when former starting QB Mike Sturgill announced he was going to transfer just months before his final season. Sturgill was the school record-holder for both career passing yards (4,867) and touchdowns (38). Four underclassmen rotated at QB during spring practice, including Anthony Salgado and Chris Horton, both of whom saw time in 2004.

Jacksonville has its entire receiving corps back, led by Eldin Ferguson and Julio Santiago, who combined for 1,302 yards and six TDs last year. All-league kicker Ryan Feely (younger brother of NFL kicker Jay) led the league in punting and does double duty as the placekicker.

Despite having the South Division's offensive and co-defensive players of the year, Davidson was only able to manage two wins in 2004. Both are gone now, as is former starting QB Damion White. Sophomore Beaux Jones (son of former NFL quarterbacking great Bert) will likely fill White's position. All-PFL wide receiver Brett Dioguardi needs 129 yards for 1,000 in his career.

While 10 starters return on offense, defensively the Wildcats will have to fill numerous holes, as only two starters are back from last year's team. One of those is linebacker Alex Arinsmier, who was second in the PFL in tackles per game (9.4).



## Talent-laden SoCon loaded with national contenders—but they have to get through each other first

By Stan Olson  
The Charlotte Observer

So will the Southern Conference's Big Four dominate again this season?

By now you know who we're talking about—Georgia Southern, Furman, Appalachian State and relative newcomer Wofford—leaving the other members to fight over the scraps. Last season, two made the Division I-AA playoffs, and all four schools feel primed to make runs this year.

The Southern Conference has been the most successful group in I-AA history, building a 71-44 record in the playoffs. That's more victories and a higher winning percentage (.617) than any other league, comfortably ahead of the Big Sky (56 wins, .544).

There's more: Southern members have won five national titles and have reached the championship game 13 times in the last 22 seasons.

Still, the league must be looking over its shoulder—the Atlantic 10 has grabbed the past two national crowns.

Several of the Big Four can make a strong case for the I-AA title, starting with **Furman**.

Last season it tied Georgia Southern for the Southern crown, finished the regular season with a No. 2 national ranking and lost to eventual champ James Madison, which left a disappointing taste, but the talent is on hand for another run.

That talent starts with QB Ingle Martin (2,792 yards and 22 TDs) who played brilliantly in his first season. Top rushers Cedrick Gipson (745 yards), Brandon Mays (682) and Daric Carter (579) return as well. The biggest hole to fill is found at tackle, left by the departure of Southern Conference Jacobs Blocking Trophy winner Ben Bainbridge.

But while coach Bobby Lamb's offense was clicking, his defense was just as impressive and it should be the key to this year's squad. Returning is conference Defensive Player of the Year William Freeman (100 tackles, 4.5 sacks) and all-conference defensive end Roy Ravenell.

Georgia Southern was almost unstoppable last season, averaging a whopping 47 points and 369.9 rushing yards a game, both tops in the nation.

Quarterback Chaz Williams is gone, but sophomore Jayson Foster could make Eagles fans quickly forget him. He's quick and elusive, and last year scored five different ways—rushing, receiving, punt return, kickoff return and passing. His initiation will go more smoothly because of the presence of senior fullback Jermaine Austin (988 rushing yards).

Ten players return who were named either first- or second-team all-conference and the secondary is solid, led by A.J. Bryant (6 INTs).

It hasn't taken long for veteran **Wofford** coach Mike Ayers to figure out the Southern Conference. The Terriers win with a powerful option attack (305.1 rushing yards per game last season), but its top two QBs are gone. The key to the offense is junior RB Kevious Johnson (1,035 yards, 9 TDs) and junior QB Josh Collier. He completed four of 11 passes in 2004 but more importantly, averaged 5.8 yards a carry.

Wofford is always opportunistic; it led the Southern in turnover margin (plus-11) for the second straight year, and had 15 picks. The secondary returns experience, and junior linebacker Justin Franklin is back after leading the team in tackles (81) despite starting only three games. There were critical losses on the D-line starting with All-American Lee Basinger, but senior tackle Katon Bethay is back.

Are things getting a bit stale at **Appalachian State**? The Mountaineers uncharacteristically missed the playoffs for a second straight year, finishing 6-5. Coach Jerry Moore enters his 17th season in Boone, N.C., optimistic that things will be different.

There's bad news before the good, though. Moore kicked RB Alan Atwater (ASU's leading rusher with 1,290 yards over the past two seasons) off the squad for a violation of team rules. The Apps will rely heavily on senior QB Richie Williams, who returns after leading the league in passing a year ago (3,109 yards, 24 TDs).

While conference Offensive Player of the Year DaVon Fowlkes is gone, four receivers who had at least 200 yards receiving return.

The offense scored points quickly, but the defense gave them back just as quickly, allowing 32.5 a game. They'll try to regroup around junior defensive end Marques Murrell, who led the league with seven sacks.

Third-year coach Rodney Allison has to shake **Chattanooga** out of its propensity for slow starts. The Mocs lost their first six games in each of Allison's first two seasons. Oh, and there's another problem—they can't stop anyone.

Last season, they allowed 48.1 points a game, so Allison brought in former East Tennessee State and Elon defensive coordinator Billy Taylor to stop the hemorrhaging. There is talent on hand though, starting with sophomore QB Antonio Miller. Two receivers return in juniors Emanuel Hassell (55 catches for 647 yards) and Tyrus Ward (43 for 660).

The defense returns five starters, including 6-foot-7 defensive tackle Troy Blackwell, who's blocked six kicks in his career.

**Western Carolina's** chances of breaching the upper echelon dimmed with the news that QB Bennett Swygert will miss all of 2005 after having surgery on both shoulders.



1	Furman
2	Georgia Southern
3	Wofford
4	Appalachian State
5	Chattanooga
6	Western Carolina
7	Elon
8	The Citadel

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Richie Williams, QB, Appalachian State
Defense	William Freeman, LB, Furman
Newcomer	Brandon Johnson, S, Chattanooga

### GAMES TO WATCH

09.17.05	Georgia Southern at Wofford
10.08.05	Appalachian State at Furman
10.15.05	Georgia Southern at Appalachian State
11.12.05	Wofford at Furman

Before he was injured last year, he threw for 573 yards, five TDs and five picks.

So who takes over? Either junior Justin Clark (1,065 passing yards) or sophomore Russell Hemby (376). Improvement is necessary in an offensive line that yielded 26 sacks a year ago.

However, the key to a winning season will be continued improvement of the defense, which safety Primus Glover and cornerback Bruce Lee will anchor.

Although last season's mark was 4-7, there was a silver lining—Western beat archrival Appalachian to win the Old Mountain Jug for just the second time since 1985.

It's one thing to lose key players when their eligibility runs out. It's another entirely when it happens early, such as **Elon's** fate when star sophomore running back John Taylor (1,069 yards) became an academic casualty.

Coach Paul Hamilton will have to look elsewhere for answers. He's good at adjusting; last season he moved promising fullback Chad Nkang to linebacker, where he led the league in tackles (135).

Along the way, the Phoenix advanced from 2-10 in its first conference season to 3-8 in 2004. For further improvement, Hamilton is staying inside the family with QB son, Kye, who threw for over 1,000 yards as a freshman.

A moment of silence for **The Citadel**, which didn't announce its new football coach until March 24. John Zernhelt fled to the New York Jets and the Bulldogs replaced him with Kevin Higgins, who had been with the Detroit Lions. Higgins is a solid pick, however, having won regularly at Lehigh.

He also works well with QBs, which should help sophomore Duran Lawson (925 passing yards), who became the starter midway through last season. The Bulldogs must improve a dismal offense that averaged 16.2 points in 2004.

The team will depend on second-team all-conference safety Shawn Grant for leadership.





1. Northwestern State
2. Texas State
3. Sam Houston State
4. Stephen F. Austin
5. Nicholls State
6. McNeese State
7. SE Louisiana

## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Martin Hankins, QB, SE Louisiana
Defense	Fred Evans, DE, Texas State
Newcomer	Marvin Byrdsong, LB, Northwestern St.

## GAMES TO WATCH

10.08.05	Northwestern St. at Sam Houston St.
10.22.05	Northwestern State at Texas State
11.05.05	SE Louisiana at Sam Houston State

## Although new coaches are the talk of the town, expect NSU Demons' dominance to continue

By Bill Smith  
Street & Smith's Correspondent

This is the year of the coach in the Southland Conference, as almost half the seven-team football lineup will put rookie head coaches on the field. The dean of the SLC, Sam Houston State's Ron Randleman, peaked the turnover when he announced his retirement the day after the Bearkats closed one of the greatest turnarounds in Division I-AA history. Randleman handed the Bearkats to Todd Whitten after claiming his third SLC title and turning the program from 2-9 in 2003 to 11-3 and a I-AA semifinalist last season.

Over the past 17 months, five of the seven head coaching jobs opened, leaving McNeese State's Tommy Tate as the new dean with only five years on the job. Next on the list—Northwestern State's Scott Stoker, the 2004 Southland Coach of the Year—has only been at the helm three years.

Even the league newcomer, Southeastern Louisiana, joined in as Hal Mumme left the Lions' resurrection early to become the head coach at New Mexico State. But little will change for SLU, as key assistant Dennis Roland took over in the spring.

The Lions are an intriguing X-factor for the SLC race. Crushing an independent schedule last year behind sophomore wonder QB Martin Hankins, SLU now takes on six teams experienced against pass-happy offenses. With an astonishing 65 touchdowns and almost 8,000 yards so far in his career, Hankins will entertain SLC stadiums, but the balanced attack led by Northwestern State senior Davon Vinson should win the title.

In fact, the challenge isn't picking the top team—the 2005 title is Northwestern's to lose—it is figuring out who finishes second.

Balance was the key for Northwestern State in 2004, and sweeping the Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year along with

Coach of the Year for Scott Stoker is perfect evidence. But Stoker now must replace those two stars, as running back Derrick Johnese declared early for the NFL Draft and linebacker Jamall Johnson graduated. The Demons will call on Shelton Sampson to fill the hole at RB, as the senior was fifth in the conference with 678 yards and added 11 touchdowns in 2004. Keeping the running game on track is important for NSU, but senior starting quarterback Davon Vinson (1,240 yards, 10 TDs) showed new accuracy in the spring. The Demons finished the season as the nation's top I-AA defense, and Stoker returns seven starters in the Purple Swarm. It's an interesting mix of veterans such as linebackers T.J. McMillan and Paul Mefford along with a talented class of sophomores led by linemen Raymond Martin, Clayton Elliot and Charlie Brooks. Don't worry about Stoker finding Johnson's replacement, as Marvin Byrdsong, a *Parade* All-America transfer from Mississippi State, takes over at linebacker.

Better is the operative word for Texas State. Quarterback Barrick Nealey (1,202 yards, 10 TDs) leads 19 returning starters for coach David Bailiff. The Bobcats came within a game of a share of the SLC title last year, and the near miss, plus an infusion of I-A transfers, make TSU the surprise team for 2005. Defensive end Fred Evans—the league's Newcomer of the Year—is one of 10 starters returning. Senior linebacker David Simmons made 10 of his 34 total tackles behind the line of scrimmage last season. However, the Bobcats ranked near the bottom of the conference in almost every defensive category.

The legend of Huntsville, Texas, Ron Randleman, retired at Sam Houston State, leaving an interesting rebuilding task for new coach Todd Whitten. The high-powered Bearkat offense also lost its record-setting quarterback, Dustin Long, and wide receiver Jarrod Fuller. Whitten has options for replacing Long, topped by Noah Allen and Brett Hicks, and his running back returns in senior Jason Godfrey (662 yards, 2 TDs). Solid in the lines and good on defense, what Whitten lacks is a single returning receiver with collegiate experience. The Bearkats decided to go the conversion route, as Josh Moore (formerly a safety) and Stevie Smith (ex-tailback) got plenty of looks in the spring, but SHSU needs more to stay ahead in the arena football-scoring atmosphere of the SLC.

Injuries at the wrong time left Stephen F. Austin on the outside of the conference race. The offense returns plenty of power for new head coach Robert McFarland, paced by senior quarterback Zeke Dixon (339 yards, 2 TDs). The 112 points scored in the spring game confirmed Dixon's mastery of the Lumberjacks' new offense, and gave young backs Lester Simmons and Louie Rannels and receiver Tyrell Williams the chance to

shine. The bad news: the defense gave up more 100 points in the spring game. The Jacks are very young—just a handful of seniors on the roster—and count on underclassmen linebackers Robert Castillo and Erik Wilson to anchor a rebuilt defense that returns only six starters. While McFarland got some answers in the spring, a number of questions remain for August due to a large group of star players that missed the spring due to injury.

Nicholls State also made coaching news in the offseason, giving Jay Thomas a contract extension after he guided the Colonels to a 5-5 finish in his first year. Thomas' immediate challenge is replacing one of NSU's top all-time rushers, Colt Colletti, in order to keep the Colonels' ground game at the top of the SLC. More consistency from senior quarterback Yale Vannoy's passing (700 yards, 5 TDs) to go with his rushing (460, 7) and the return of sophomore fullback Broderick Cole (512, 4) help the Colonels. Nicholls State handed Northwestern its only conference loss, but losing both starting running backs in the option attack—Colletti and David Plaisance—puts the pressure on backups Joel Fotenot-Amadee and Joseph Robbins.

The McNeese State offense focuses on a trio of returning tailbacks, led by junior Chris Thomas, a near-1,000-yard rusher who averaged 106.2 all-purpose yards per game. Senior Chris Jones (861 yards, 7 TDs) got a head start on 2005 when coach Tommy Tate benched four-year standout Scott Pendarvis to start his future QB in three of the last four games, including a season-finale win over Nicholls State. The Cowboys' offense was sporadically explosive, cranking out 644 total yards against Sam Houston State. Unfortunately, the 52-47 loss to the Bearkats was symbolic of a defense that was consistently poor, as they gave up more than 50 points in five games.

For a team known for years by SLC followers as a basketball school, Southeastern Louisiana's return to the football race may cause more than a few scoreboard resets. Cranking out close to 40 points a game, the Hal Mumme-inspired offense rolls into a full league schedule for the first time since the sport was dropped at the Hammond, La., college in 1985. First-year head coach Dennis Roland won't change the Lions' high-powered offense, led by Walter Payton Award candidate Martin Hankins (4,240 yards, 35 TDs last season) at quarterback. Roland adds to the high-powered offense with the addition of much awaited Auburn transfer Jerald Watson at tailback, but that may be countered by the loss of three seniors in the offensive line. Hankins' 149.0 pass efficiency rating gets a tougher test this fall, as SLU gets a full slate of I-AA games after a 7-4 dessert tray in 2004 that included a 1-2 showing in games against SLC opponents.



## Cosby kids set to rule MEAC again

By Lut Williams  
*Black College Sports Page*

The Hampton University football program received a lot of national attention last season.

First, Marcus Dixon, a young student/athlete from Rome, Ga., embroiled in a national controversy related to his court case, surprisingly landed on the Hampton campus just before the season started. Dixon survived the initial publicity, flew under the radar for a while and eventually became a starter for the Pirates on the defensive line.

Then, there were Cosby's kids.

Entertainer Bill Cosby decided to provide three kids from the Springfield, Mass., area (where Cosby resides) with the opportunity to get a college education. The three chose Hampton. Cosby, to much fanfare, flew the three to Hampton on his private jet. Two of them ended up on the football team.

Neither of these incidents that played out before the glare of the national media did anything to distract Joe Taylor and his Pirates from winning their first Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title since taking back-to-back crowns in 1997 and 1998.

Regular-season wins over nationally ranked Western Illinois and Gardner-Webb by Hampton fulfilled a mandate from the conference to play and beat better out-of-conference competition. The next step would be a playoff win, which the MEAC hasn't experienced since 1999.

With most of its weapons returning on both sides of the ball, Hampton is the favorite to repeat in 2005 and get another shot at the postseason big boys. Florida A&M, one of the two conference teams that posted playoff victories in '99, returns to the MEAC fold after a two-year flirtation with Division I status and is expected to resume its place among the conference's elite. South Carolina State and Bethune-Cookman also have the horses to mount serious challenges.

With the departure of NFL-bound speedster Jerome Mathis, Hampton (10-2 overall, 6-1 MEAC) may not have the ability to put up the 43.5 points per game that was second best in the nation in 2004. But nine of 11 starters returning on defense and seven of 11 on offense could mean the Pirates will be even better.

On offense, the Pirates are explosive with 1,000-yard rushers Alonzo Coleman (1,133 yards, 13 TDs) and Ardeell Daniels (1,098, 15), plus second-team All-MEAC quarterback Princeton Shepherd (18 TDs, 7 INTs), who led the league in pass efficiency. Talented Kent State transfer Antwon Smith may push Shepherd as the triggerman.

MEAC Player of the Year Justin Durant, a linebacker, and MEAC sack leader Micah Littlejohn (end) lead a defense that needs to get stingier to get to the next level.

Coach Buddy Pough must successfully blend a number of new components on both offense and defense to get **South Carolina State** (9-2, 6-1) back into championship contention.

Cleveland McCoy replaces productive Brett Young at QB, and will have 1,000-yard rusher Deshaun Baker back. Speedy wide receiver Rodreikas Darby, who averaged 19.6 yards on 30 catches will be counted on to increase production in the passing game.

All-conference tackle Marcus Darby is the mainstay of a defense that lost five starters.

Injuries that racked the team were surpassed only by hurricanes in the Daytona Beach area that wreaked havoc on practice schedules for **Bethune-Cookman** (6-4, 4-3) last season. The Wildcats still showed enough resilience to challenge for the MEAC title. A solid defense and the development of young signal-callers Jarod Rucker and Jimmie Russell were the keys.

Wingback Eric Weems, the team's rushing (541 yards, 8 TDs) and receiving (539, 2) leader, and Jonathan Summers (25 receptions, 3 TDs) are two of the most dangerous and smallest guys (5-9) in the league.

Defensive back Nick Collins (second-round NFL pick), linebacker Jamal Muhammad and lineman Alex Saunders are gone, as is coordinator Pete Adrian, who left to become the head coach at Norfolk State.

Coach Billy Joe says minus the "drama and trauma" that accompanied the school's move to Division I and threatened his job, **Florida A&M** (3-7 overall) should again be competitive in the MEAC.

Josh Driscoll, an Arkansas State transfer, is next in line at QB. The 6-2, 220-pounder is being pushed by Albert Chester II, the son of the QB who led FAMU to the 1978 I-AA national title. Either should be comfortable in an offense that returns nine of 11 starters, including running back Rashard Pompey (540 yards, 6 TDs), plus wideout Roosevelt Kiser (60 catches, 8 TDs).

Defensive end/linebacker Tyrone McGriff and defensive backs Sammy Doughty and O'Bryan Brandy both return.

The league's top-rated defense carried **Howard** and coach Ray Petty to his second 6-5 record in three seasons. A woeful passing game that ranked last (117.5 yards per game) in the MEAC kept them from moving higher.

The defense is again stout, with eight of 11 starters returning. Safety Antoine Bethea and lineman Jesse Hayes, both All-MEAC picks, are the ringleaders.

An offensive line that returns four starters will help QB Ron Venters (6-1, 200), a transfer from El Camino (Calif.) CC, improve on the passing numbers. The Bison also possess a strong running game led by junior Antoine Rutherford (685 yards, 2 TDs), who ran for 1,000 yards as a freshman.

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1. | Hampton              |
| 2. | South Carolina State |
| 3. | Bethune-Cookman      |
| 4. | Florida A&M          |
| 5. | Howard               |
| 6. | Morgan State         |
| 7. | Delaware State       |
| 8. | North Carolina A&T   |
| 9. | Norfolk State        |

### TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Alonzo Coleman, RB, Hampton
Defense	Justin Durant, LB, Hampton
Newcomer	Roderick Stevens, QB, N.C. A&T

### GAMES TO WATCH

09.10.05	Hampton at Howard
09.17.05	Bethune-Cookman vs. S. C. State (Jacksonville, Fla.)
11.12.05	Florida A&M at Hampton

It was a nightmare of opposites at **Morgan State** (5-6, 3-4), where the league's most prolific offense (457.6 yards per game, 36.6 points per game) was done in by its worst defense (442.1 ypg., 38.5 ppg). Not surprisingly, coach Donald Hill replaced his defensive coordinator and secondary coach.

Defensive lineman Aaris Johnson and safety Larry Davis are All-MEAC returnees.

Running back Jason Jackson (1,191 yards, 9 TDs), who led the league in rushing (132.2 ypg) despite playing in only nine games, joins wideout Kelvin Dickens (1,019 yards, 7 TDs) as potent weapons. The task of replacing the MEAC Player of the Year, QB Bradshaw Littlejohn, will go to Byron Selby.

New coach Al Lavan rode a controlled passing attack and good special-teams play to a surprising third-place finish for **Delaware State** (4-7, 4-3) last year. In fact, the Hornets were the only conference team to get a win over Hampton. Quarterback Bryan Botts (205.7 yards per game, 12 TDs) returns to lead the ball-control offense.

The tackling (104 tackles) and pass-rushing (6.5 sacks) ability of all-conference safety Sam Smith keys the defense.

Injuries, particularly on offense, ravaged **North Carolina A&T** (3-8, 1-6) last year and held the Aggies to the league's lowest scoring output (16.4 points per game).

Senior QB Marshall Glenn (1,167 yards, 6 TDs, 15 INTs) returns to lead the offense and has veteran receivers returning in Brandon Trusty (42 catches), Curtis Walls and Doug Brown. Coach George Small is particularly high on transfer QB Roderick Stevens, the MVP of Mississippi's junior-college all-star game.

First-team All-MEAC end Rickie Lewis leads a defense that finished third statistically in the conference.

New coach Pete Adrian comes to **Norfolk State** (1-8, 1-6) after eight years of building one of the MEAC's most respected defenses at Bethune-Cookman. He'll be trying to turn around a program that has not had a winning season in eight years. Adrian is implementing a 3-4 defense, saying he will emphasize speed.





EAST		WEST	
1.	Alabama State	1.	Grambling State
2.	Alabama A&M	2.	Southern
3.	Alcorn State	3.	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
4.	Miss. Valley State	4.	Prairie View A&M
5.	Jackson State	5.	Texas Southern

## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Bruce Eugene, QB, Grambling State
Defense	Lennard Patton, DT, Grambling State
Newcomer	Bo Moncur, RB, Alabama A&M

## GAMES TO WATCH

09.17.05	Grambling State at Washington State
10.29.05	Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State (Birmingham, Ala.)
11.05.05	Grambling State at Alabama State

## Hornets could put SWAC stinging on other teams, but watch out for the always-dangerous Tigers

By Lut Williams  
Black College Sports Page

The balance of power in the Southwestern Athletic Conference took a shift to the East last year, and that shift is likely to continue in 2005.

After five straight championships by West Division teams, an East Division school—Alabama State—broke through to claim last year's SWAC title.

Second-year coach Charles Coe III's Hornets made their second straight trip to the title game against Southern and got revenge for a heartbreaking 42-41 regular-season loss (and one in last year's title game) to the Jaguars by downing the West Division champs 40-35.

The Hornets return several key players on an offense that put up a league-best 33.9 points per game last year and should remain at the top of the power grid.

The loss of senior All-America quarterback Bruce Eugene in Melvin Spears' first game as head coach knocked conference favorite Grambling State for a loop. The Tigers regrouped behind freshman QB Brandon Landers and finished a respectable 6-5. With Eugene back after being granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA, the Tigers will come in as West Division favorites.

Southern is retooling, but is still the team most likely to challenge Grambling in the West.

## EAST DIVISION

Coe got the proverbial monkey off the back of **Alabama State** (10-2 overall, 6-1 SWAC) with the championship win over Southern, the only SWAC team the Hornets had not beaten in his two years at the helm. With the championship in hand, it's the Hornets who will be marked men now.

That's fine with returning senior QB Tarvaris Jackson, who, despite great numbers (2,556 passing yards, 20 TDs, 9 INTs),

was snubbed in all-conference voting. He is the triggerman of the league's most potent backfield, which features two-time rushing leader Keldrick Williams (1,167 yards, 17 TDs) and change-of-pace backup Robert Randolph (750, 9).

Finding replacements for three starters lost on both the offensive and defensive lines, along with replacing Ronald "Roc" Dillon (the conference's Defensive Player of the Year), are Coe's biggest challenges.

Defense once again carried **Alabama A&M** (7-4, 5-2) to the brink of a division title, but as usual it was the offense that let the Bulldogs down.

The SWAC's best defensive unit gets back a strong group of starters that includes end Chris Traylor, who was tied for the league lead with 8.5 sacks.

A new passing-game coordinator is charged with helping sophomore Kelcy Luke, who emerged from spring ball as the starting quarterback. Promising UAB transfer Bo Moncur and fellow newcomer Jarmaine Williams join returning rushing leader Nic Luke (614 yards, 5 TDs) to give the Bulldogs a strong running attack.

After relying on the passing of second-team all-conference QB Donald Carrie for four years, **Alcorn State** (7-4, 4-3) will be looking for more balance in its offensive attack. But with all-conference receivers Charlie Spiller (50 receptions, 1,111 yards, 9 TDs) and Nate Hughes (48, 781, 4) still in the fold, coach Johnny Thomas must find a replacement for Carrie, who left Alcorn trailing only Steve McNair in the school record books.

That job is likely to fall to Oliver Bozeman, a talented but inexperienced player who won the job in the spring.

The hopes of **Mississippi Valley State** (3-8, 1-6) are firmly pinned to junior QB Aries Nelson, last year's SWAC Newcomer of the Year. The poised, 6-3, 215-pound Mississippi State transfer impressed everyone in the conference with his throwing (1,733 yards, 9 TDs) and running (390 yards, 3 TDs) ability.

Nelson's favorite target, Shang Moore (35 receptions, 4 TDs) returns, as does running back Carlton Cotton.

The MVSU defense is led by linebacker Tyler Knight, who averaged 10 tackles per game last year, second best in the league.

Coach James Bell believes his **Jackson State** (4-7, 3-4) team got a little closer to where he wants them last year, but needs more physical and mental toughness to get over the hump.

Steve Haren, juco product Terrence Matthews and Kethonne McLaurin will vie for QB duty. Look for an increased workload for junior RB David Kennebrew (610 yards, 7 TDs). Byron Johnson, Jaymar Johnson and Cletis Gordon lead the receiving corps.

The Tigers took the biggest hits on defense, losing first-team all-conference players Deon Deboise and Joseph Scott.

## WEST DIVISION

Having an experienced quarterback behind All-American Bruce Eugene can only be a good thing for **Grambling State** (6-5, 3-4) and coach Melvin Spears. Freshman Brandon Landers cushioned the blow of Eugene's loss by putting up a solid year (2,283 yards, 18 TDs), good enough to earn SWAC Freshman-of-the-Year honors.

But that's not the only good news. Spears lost only one starter from the offensive line, returns his top rushers in tailback Ab Kuan (637 yards, 10 TDs) and fullback Ruben Mayes—both All-SWAC selections—and his leading receivers in Clyde Edwards (30 receptions) and Henry Tolbert (29).

Standout defensive tackle Lennard Patton returns from an injury to shore up a defense that lost five starters, but returns DEs Jason Hatcher (4.5 sacks) and Jason Banks (5.5).

**Southern** (8-4, 6-1) has won the last two West Division crowns, and for the Jaguars to have any chance of making it three straight, new QB Joseph Lewis will have to learn the offense quickly.

Talented receivers James Vernon (56 receptions, 6 TDs) Antonio Overstreet (38, 7) and Emile Bryant (37, 4) should help smooth Lewis' transition. Steel Adams (388 yards, 3 TDs) is the returning RB.

Mo Forte built the league's top rushing attack at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (6-3, 5-2), and that and a swarming defense nearly carried the Golden Lions to a division title in 2004. Building on last year's success will be tough minus the three rushers who ran for nearly 2,000 total yards, however.

Fourth-string tailback Brashaad Mayweather will get first shot at the ball-carrying position, but will face a challenge from New Mexico State transfer Tony Joseph. John Pierce will likely return as the starter at quarterback.

The high moments were few and far between for new **Prairie View A&M** (3-8, 1-6) coach Henry Frazier, but there were some. A three-win season and an opening win over rival Texas Southern (its first since 1988) were signals that progress was being made.

Big things are expected from sophomore RB Arnell Fontenot, who led the team with 499 rushing yards, and WR Anthony Wright, who averaged 21.7 yards on his 26 receptions. Senior Michael Hill and sophomore Chris Gibson will battle for the QB spot.

To say that coach Steve Wilson's team at **Texas Southern** (0-11, 0-7) struggled would be a gross understatement. The Tigers were outscored by an average of about 25 points while ranking at the bottom of nearly every statistical category in the league.

Freshman QBs Tino Edgcombe and Kevin Parsons and a young offensive line got their baptism under fire, as every opponent tried to blitz them into submission.

Defensive back Stacey Thomas earned first-team All-SWAC honors based on his 104 tackles and 3.5 sacks.



# >>> DIVISION



## Valdosta State will be happy to win ugly again —as long as it means a repeat NCAA title

By Gregg Dewalt  
Decatur (Ala.) Daily

As a player at Valdosta State, Chris Hatcher experienced more than his fair share of success. He set numerous school records as quarterback of the Blazers, and managed to snag the 1994 Harlon Hill Trophy as the best player in Division II.

Hatcher's resume, however, was missing one key achievement—a national championship.

Hatcher's resume is now complete. The Blazers allowed their coach to make an addendum to his credentials with a stirring 36-31 victory over Pittsburg (Kan.) State for the school's first football title last year. And the Blazers did it in style, coming from behind against the nation's top scoring team.

To borrow a well-worn advertising cliché, the Blazers "won the championship the hard way—they earned it." The season started with a loss to Albany State, but ended 13 consecutive wins later with a D2 title. Along the way, the Blazers rallied for four wins and used a goal-line stand in the final seconds of another. While Pittsburg State was blasting its way to the championship game, Valdosta State was scrapping and clawing and digging its way out of seemingly one hole after another.

Now, the question facing Hatcher and the Blazers is whether they can do it again.

### TOP 25

**Valdosta State** (13-1) loses 12 starters, including quarterback Fabian Walker, from the championship team. And it remains to be seen if the Blazers can recapture the magic of so many comebacks.

Hatcher, for one, thinks his team can. "You hope you can make your own breaks," says Hatcher, whose team rallied from a 24-0 halftime deficit against Albany State in the quarterfinals. "The only way to win a championship is if the ball bounces in your direction some of the time."

Although the Blazers were in the national rankings throughout the season, they might have slipped in under the radar given the

way they failed to dominate the Gulf South Conference as they had in the past. Valdosta State held off Delta State 51-48 by stopping two running plays from inside the one-yard-line in the closing seconds; scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to beat North Alabama 24-20; and overtook West Alabama 34-17 after trailing 17-10.

Valdosta State used the same magic to come from behind against Albany, then spotted Pittsburg State a 14-0 lead in the championship. In the end, it was the Blazers who had the last laugh.

"That group played together better than any group I've ever seen," Hatcher recalls. "We improved each week, and I never thought that we peaked, even in the championship game."

Hatcher has a solid replacement for Walker. Barrett Wilkes returns at quarterback after taking a redshirt season in 2004. Hatcher's primary concern is replacing three offensive and three defensive linemen.

"When you have [only] 36 scholarships to give, you're never stocked at any position," Hatcher says. "We've got to create competition at every position. Nobody can get complacent. If you can keep that from happening, it makes it a lot easier to reload."

For the first time, the Blazers also enter the season as a marked team—by their GSC rivals and by the rest of the nation's elite teams.

Returning to the championship game won't be an easy road for **Pittsburg State** (14-1). Coach Chuck Broyles must replace nine starters, including the majority of an offensive line and a quarterback that fueled the Gorillas' record-setting season that saw them set the NCAA all-division record for points scored (830) and total offense (5,320 yards).

It's not like the Gorillas aren't loaded, though. Andy Majors takes over for record-setting Neal Philpot at quarterback, and the fifth-year senior has appeared in 37 games and compiled 3,839 yards of total offense. Running back Germaine Race, who scored 26 touchdowns and rushed

for 2,213 yards, anchors the offense, while defensive end Ryan Meredith (22 tackles for loss, 12 sacks) and line-backer Josh Lattimer (124 tackles) should make life difficult for opposing offensive coordinators.

**Grand Valley State** (10-3) saw its string of Division II championships rudely interrupted at two when the Lakers lost 19-15 at North Dakota in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs. Second-year coach Chuck Martin has the Lakers positioned to make another run at a title with 10 offensive starters returning and two others coming off injuries that cost them the entire 2004 season.

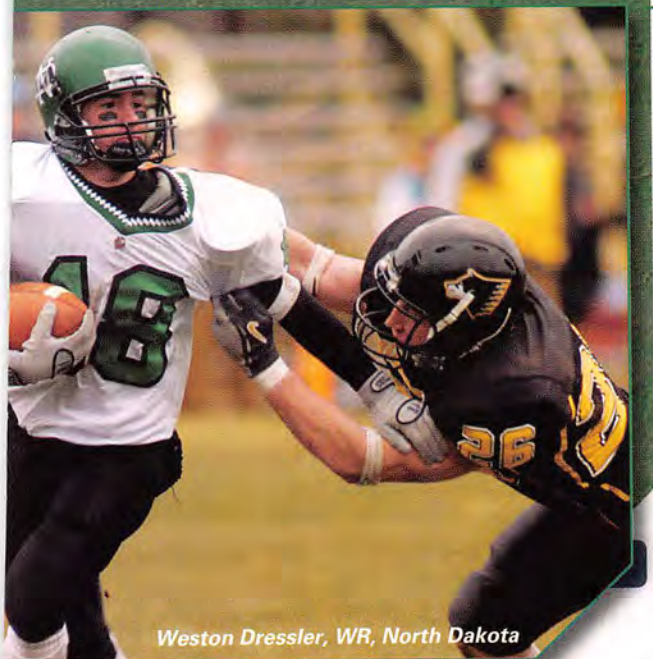
The offense appears loaded with junior QB Cullen Finnerty (2,462 yards, 25 TDs) coming off a strong season. Finnerty's top two receivers—Demonte Collins and Brandon Langston—combined for 127 catches, 1,819 yards receiving and 24 TDs. Toledo transfer Astin Martin enters the fold at running back after compiling 1,221 yards and 16 TDs in two seasons with the Rockets. Joe Wolschied, a transfer from Northwestern, will anchor the offensive line, while Utah State transfer Jorge Tapia and Minnesota transfer Samad Cain will help a defense that is trying to replace three All-Americans.

**North Dakota** (11-3) should be loaded again, especially on defense with linebacker Digger Anderson and safety Danny Gagner returning. The Fighting Sioux feature two exceptional special-teamers in kicker Jeff Glas (21 field goals) and Weston Dressler, who led the NCAA in punt returns.

**East Stroudsburg** (8-2) will be led by one of the nation's best quarterbacks in Jimmy Terwilliger (3,826 yards, 36 TD passes) and one of Division II's best safeties, Matt Crispell (10 INTs).

**Northwest Missouri State** (11-2) is one of those teams that always seems positioned to challenge for a national title. That shouldn't change this year, as running back Xavier Omon returns following a stellar freshman season (1,578 yards, 19 TDs). Quarterbacks Josh Lamberson and Josh Matthews, who





Weston Dressler, WR, North Dakota

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Valdosta State
2. Pittsburg State
3. Grand Valley State
4. North Dakota
5. East Stroudsburg
6. Northwest Missouri State
7. Texas A&M-Kingsville
8. Edinboro
9. Northwood
10. Albany State
11. West Chester
12. Arkansas Tech
13. Shippensburg
14. Colorado School of Mines
15. Carson-Newman
16. Michigan Tech
17. St. Cloud State
18. Fayetteville State
19. Nebraska-Omaha
20. Southeastern Oklahoma State
21. Winona State
22. Midwestern State
23. Delta State
24. Chadron State
25. Shaw

## GAMES TO WATCH

<b>Sept. 10</b>	East Stroudsburg at C.W. Post
<b>Sept. 24</b>	Shippensburg at Edinboro
<b>Oct. 1</b>	Tuskegee at Albany State
<b>Oct. 8</b>	Texas A&M-Kingsville at Central Oklahoma
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Adams State at Colorado School of Mines

combined for 30 touchdown passes and 3,000 passing yards, will battle for the starting job. Lamberson started for half of the season before being sidelined by a hip injury.

**Texas A&M-Kingsville** (9-2) has won four consecutive Lone Star Conference titles, but is looking to return to the national prominence it enjoyed in the 1990s when it seemingly was in contention annually for a national championship. The Javelinas should be excellent on defense with the return of All-America linebacker Deandre Fillmore (163 tackles, 18 for loss).

**Edinboro** (9-3) has won back-to-back Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West Division titles and made three straight playoff appearances for coach Lou Tepper, the former head man at the University of Illinois. With 19 returning starters, this could be the best of Tepper's teams. Tailback Andre Burke is coming off a 1,713-yard, 19-TD season. He'll be running behind an offensive line that returns all five starters, including Greg Bzorek, a 6-foot-6, 318-pound bruiser at tackle.

The defense is also good, as Tom Davidson (8) and Chris Avery (6) combined for 14 of the Scots' school-record 30 interceptions.

**Northwood** (10-2) claimed a piece of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title for the first time since 2000 and tied a school record for wins in the process. The Timberwolves should challenge for the conference's top spot again with Kyle Kolbe (16 TD passes, 883 yards rushing).

**Albany State** (11-1) handed Valdosta State its only loss and nearly ended the Blazers' playoff hopes in the NCAA quarterfinals. Most of the Golden Rams' top players return for another run at the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title.

**West Chester** (11-4) made it all the way to the national semifinals, and should be explosive on offense with wideout Brandon Simmons (74 catches, 1,534 yards, 20 TDs) and running back Osage Osunde (2,036 all-purpose yards, 17 rushing touchdowns).

With five key offensive performers returning, including tight end Josh Rogers (32 catches, 9 TDs), **Arkansas Tech** (10-2) should challenge Valdosta State for the Gulf South Conference title.

**Shippensburg** (10-2) must replace fullback John Kuhn (1,487 yards, 14 TDs) but returns standout defensive back Brent Grimes (7 INTs).

It went 46 years in between Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championships, but **Colorado School of Mines** (12-1) seems to be ready to remain a fixture on the national scene. The Orediggers won the first playoff game in school history before getting bumped by Pittsburg State. Coach Bob Stitt's team returns 15 starters, including nine on defense, but Harlon Hill Trophy-winning quarterback Chad Frieauf has graduated. Whoever wins the quarterback position will have a game-breaking receiver in Justin Gallas (95 catches, 1,352 yards, 10 TDs) as a target.

**Carson-Newman** (9-3) won its 18th South Atlantic Conference title in 2004. Running back Rayvon Howard (1,268 yards, 17 TDs) should help offset the loss of All-SAC quarterback Shane Kelly.

**Michigan Tech** (9-2) shared the GLIAC title with Northwood, completing a big turnaround under coach Bernie Anderson. It was the first title in 17 years for Tech and only the third nine-win season in the team's 82-year history. Michigan Tech loses 20 seniors, but running back Lee Marana (1,520 yards, 21 TDs) provides plenty of firepower.

**St. Cloud State** (8-3) returns two of the best players in the North Central



Intercollegiate Athletic Conference: running back Matt Birkel, who rushed for 1,689 yards and 18 touchdowns, and defensive back Mitchell Denne, who had seven interceptions and 85 tackles.

**Fayetteville State** (8-4) was one of only two teams to defeat Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association champ Shaw in the 2004 regular season, posting a 24-14 victory. Anthony Hicks is one of the nation's top returning defensive backs, coming off a season in which he had 10 sacks and 15 tackles for loss.

With 19 returning starters, **Nebraska-Omaha** (8-3) will again be among the elite NCIAC teams. The Mavericks will build their offense around QB Brian Masek, who threw 17 touchdown passes and ran for seven more, and running back Jamar Day, who rushed for 1,541 yards and 17 touchdowns.

**Southeastern Oklahoma State** (8-3) has a new coach in former defensive coordinator Ray Richards, who arrives from Southwest Baptist. Richards' first task will be to find a replacement for QB Drew Beard, the all-time leader in total offense in the Lone Star Conference with 9,684 yards.

**Winona State** (10-2) is coming off its eighth conference title since 1993, but must replace Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Chris Samp, who caught 22 of the team's 34 touchdown passes.

**Midwestern State** (8-3) will try to build its offense around a pair of sophomores—QB Rashaan Bell (8 TD passes) and running back Ross Harrison (770 yards, 8 TDs).

With 3,369-yard passer

Scott Eyster returning for his junior season,

**Delta State** (6-4)

should contend in the tough Gulf South Conference.

Eyster's 358.9 yards per game of total offense ranked second in the NCAA, and he had an excellent TD/interception ratio of 28-to-7.

**Chadron State**

(7-3) has a new coach in Bill O'Boyle, who was elevated after a six-year stint as offensive coordinator.

Making things easier for O'Boyle is the return of running back

Danny Woodhead, who led Division II in rushing (184.0 yards per game), all-purpose yards (208.7) and scoring (16.2 points per game) a year ago. A true freshman, Woodhead scored 25 touchdowns and ran for 1,840 yards.

It's been a quick revival of **Shaw** (10-2) football under coach Deondri Clark, who in two years is 17-5 since the school reinstated the program. The Bears beat Fayetteville State 10-7 to win their first CIAA title since 1947, and added a 30-28 win over Tuskegee in the Pioneer Bowl. The Bears led the nation in total defense, thanks partly to defensive back Torrance Nunnally, who had six interceptions.

## BEST OF THE REST

**Tuskegee** (10-2) should fight Albany State for the SIAC with tough defense and an efficient offense led by QB Kevin Huff, who passed and ran for 20 total touchdowns last year.

**Central Oklahoma** (8-2) shared the Lone Star Conference Northern Division championship. With 14 starters returning, including the pass-catch combo of QB Justin Allgood and wide receiver Cedric Jones (71 catches), the Bronchos should contend for another title.

**South Dakota** (9-2) enjoyed its best season since 1986, setting 26 school records. With 18 starters returning, including QB Wesley Beschorn, who had a combined 27 touchdowns rushing and passing, the

Coyotes could be poised to make a playoff run.

**Wingate**

(8-3) tied a school record for wins, but SAC Coach of the Year Joe Reich must replace 1,000-yard receiver Rodney Williams.

Another SAC team, **Catawba** (7-4), will try to return to the playoffs behind defensive lineman Kolby Fisher, who had 10 sacks.

**Saginaw Valley** (7-3) slipped in 2004, but still managed to beat Grand Valley State 31-20 in the regular season. Quarterback Mark

Radlinski is gone, but the defense should be stout behind linebacker John DiGiorgio (110 tackles).

Carlton Brewster caught 81 passes for 1,230 yards and eight TDs as **Ferris State** (6-5) recorded a winning season for the ninth time in 13 seasons.

The return of Devin Conwell (118 tackles) and Allen Lattimore (88 tackles, 18 for loss), along with Kent State transfer Luke Busson, means **Ashland** (5-6) should have one of the best linebacking corps in the GLIAC.

**Bloomsburg** (7-3) coach Danny Hale needs five wins to hit the 100-victory mark with the Huskies, who feature one of the top offensive linemen in the country in Jahri Evans.

**Slippery Rock** (4-7) will try to break the .500 mark behind offensive stars Josh Knies and Nat Crookshank.

With 15 starters returning, including running back Antoine Bagwell, **California of Pennsylvania** looks to be a team on the rise, while **Indiana of Pennsylvania** (7-3) has 16 returning starters, including its entire offensive line.

**Nebraska-Kearney** (5-6) will try to bounce back from its first losing season in eight years after injuries at quarterback slowed the Lopers last season. The Lopers used four quarterbacks in '04, but Marcus Goldstein and Casey Samuelson return to battle for the starting job after sustaining arm injuries.

**Southern Arkansas** (5-6) coach Steve Quinn hopes the return of Jabari Woods from academic problems will provide a one-two punch at quarterback with 2004 starter Damian Melancon, who rushed for a team-high 671 yards and six TDs and threw for 1,666 yards and 15 TDs.

No team fell faster last season than **North Alabama** (5-5), which was a playoff semifinalist in 2003. Anthony Merritt, one of the top kick returners in the country, is moving from defense to offense.

For the first time in more than 25 years, **Angelo State** (2-9) begins a new era under coach Dale Carr, who takes over for the retired Jerry Vandergriff. Carr, who comes to ASU from Tyler (Texas) Junior College, has 15 returning starters to work with.

**Missouri Western** (5-6) has a brutal schedule that includes four playoff teams from 2004. Junior defensive lineman Michael Cobbins had 17 tackles for loss and six sacks.

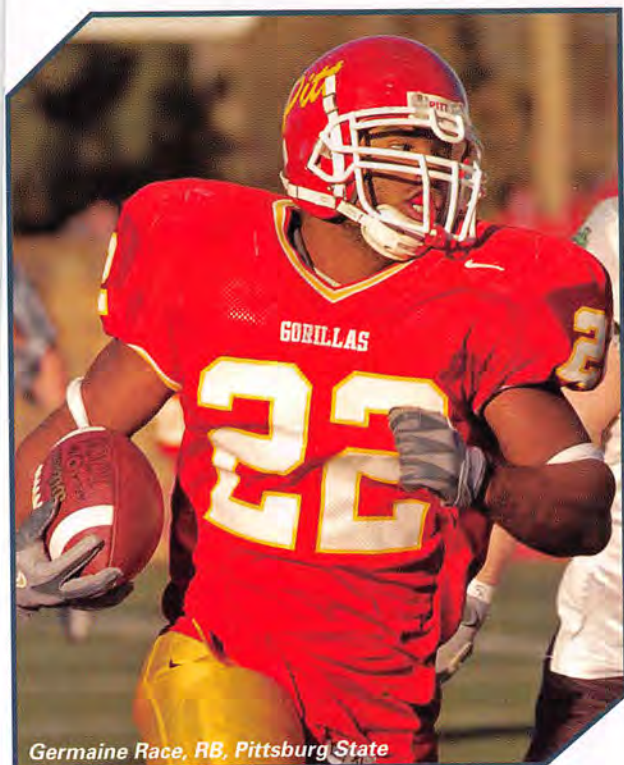
**Missouri Southern** (5-6) returns eight starters from an offense that averaged 31 points per game, including QB Nathan Emert, who threw for 3,406 yards and 24 touchdowns as a true freshman.

**Fairmont State** (5-5) features one of the top ground games in the West Virginia



Matt Birkel, RB, St. Cloud State (30)





Germaine Race, RB, Pittsburg State

Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with running backs Wendell Johnson (1,240 yards, 10 TDs) and Jo Jo Parker (709, 8).

With 15 returning starters, **Bentley** (8-2) is looking to make its third consecutive playoff appearance. Replacing QB Marc Eddy (D2-record 121 career TD passes) and wide receiver Dallas Mall (college-record 78 TD catches) will be a tough chore.

Bryan Collins sports a 65-14 record in seven seasons as coach at **C.W. Post** (8-3). Defensively, defensive end Damien Gilyard is coming off an amazing season at any level—27.5 tackles for loss and 19.5 sacks.

**Merrimack** (8-3) wide receiver Elfren Quiles set a NCAA freshman receiving mark with 88 catches for 1,406 yards and 14 TDs.

**Southern Connecticut** (8-2) has a solid nucleus of returning players, but to match last year's record must find a quarterback to replace Mike Abate, who set a school record with 28 TD passes.

**Central Washington** (8-4) will rely on wide receiver Brian Potucek, who caught 68 passes in eight games, to challenge in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

**Humboldt State** (5-5) adds eight transfers – including offensive lineman Brett Battle, who played on the team in 1997-1998 before leaving school, and cornerback Chris Weingarten, who served a stint in the U.S. Air Force.

Coach Rob Smith became the first **Western Washington** (6-4) coach to win 100 games, and will get started towards 200 wins with a good pass-catch combination in QB James Monrean and wide receiver Andy Olson, who caught 15 touchdown passes in 2004.

Coach Willie Fritz has guided **Central Missouri State** (7-4) to seven straight seven-win seasons. But the Fighting Mules must replace running backs Lee Thompson (1,022 yards, 16 TDs) and Kegan Coleman (767, 12).

**Bemidji State** (7-3) has two excellent offensive performers to build on in Nathan Sannes (21 TD passes) and Tyler Olson (1,234 rushing yards, 15 TDs).

James McNear set three school records at **Concordia-St. Paul** (7-4). McNear threw 14 touchdown passes and ran for 10 more.

**Adams State** (7-4) won seven straight after an 0-3 start on the way to the school's best season in 15 years. Adam McGurk, who had 126 tackles, anchors a defense that was ranked 12th nationally.

**Shepherd** (7-3) rebounded from an 0-3 start to win its final seven games and the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title. The Rams should be good defensively with the return of Andre Henderson, who had 12 sacks and 29 tackles for loss. Dan Peters had a team-high six interceptions, including two for touchdowns.

The Rams could be challenged in the WVIAC by **Glenville State** (5-6), which started 0-4 last year but won five of seven to close the season.

**North Carolina Central** (8-2) didn't miss out on a CIAA title by much, losing twice by a total of 11 points. Senior quarterback Adrian Walker returns after throwing 20 touchdown passes. Also back is his favorite receiver, Torey Ross, who caught 11 of those scoring strikes.

## 2005 DIVISION 2 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	Size	Class	School
QB	Jimmy Terwilliger	5-11, 190	Jr.	East Stroudsburg
RB	Germaine Race	5-11, 225	Jr.	Pittsburg State
RB	Danny Woodhead	5-8, 185	So.	Chadron State
RB	Andre Burke	5-10, 205	Sr.	Edinboro
OL	Jahri Evans	6-4, 340	r-Sr.	Bloomsburg
OL	Chris Kuper	6-4, 320	Sr.	North Dakota
OL	Greg Bzorek	6-6, 318	Sr.	Edinboro
OL	Chad Weeks	6-3, 334	Sr.	Pittsburg State
TE	Josh Rogers	6-3, 228	Jr.	Arkansas Tech
WR	Brandon Simmons	6-0, 190	Sr.	West Chester
WR	Justin Gallas	6-1, 180	Sr.	Colorado School of Mines
WR	Von Mixon	5-9, 180	Sr.	Arkansas-Monticello
RS	Anthony Merritt	6-0, 180	Jr.	North Alabama
PK	Scott Greene	6-2, 200	Sr.	Grand Valley State

### DEFENSE

Pos.	Name	Size	Class	School
DL	Tim Thompson	6-4, 240	Sr.	Valdosta State
DL	Steve Williams	6-3, 300	Sr.	Northwest Missouri State
DL	Damien Gilyard	6-4, 225	Jr.	C.W. Post
DL	Ryan Meredith	6-2, 227	Jr.	Pittsburg State
LB	Deandrae Fillmore	5-9, 216	Sr.	Texas A&M-Kingsville
LB	Digger Anderson	6-0, 236	Sr.	North Dakota
LB	Taiwo Onatolu	6-2, 215	Sr.	Nebraska-Omaha
LB	Adam McGurk	6-1, 205	Sr.	Adams State
DB	Matt Crispell	6-2, 205	Jr.	East Stroudsburg
DB	Brent Grimes	5-10, 177	Sr.	Shippensburg
DB	Anthony Hicks	5-10, 180	Jr.	Fayetteville State
DB	Mitchell Denne	6-2, 175	Jr.	St. Cloud State
P	Jeff Williams	6-4, 215	Sr.	Adams State



# >>> DIVISION

## Don't look now, but new powers are turning D3 championship pursuit into a Western showdown

By Mike Goens  
Florence (Ala.) Times Daily

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has been recognizing football champions in Division III for 32 years. Until recently, you didn't have to look very far to find the hometown of those champs.

For the most part, they have virtually all come from the Midwest or East. Having a champion residing much further west than the Mississippi River region was unheard of until five years ago.

Now, there appears to be a shift of power.

Two of the past five champs have come from about as far west as possible. Pacific Lutheran of Washington and Linfield College of Oregon now have their names on NCAA championship trophies. And there are others, like Occidental College of California, on the rise as well.

"We're kind of loaners out here," Linfield coach Jay Locey says. "You don't hear a lot about teams from the West Coast; it's more about the Midwest and Northeast. But there are good teams and good competition out here."

Locey adds Pacific Lutheran's championship season in 1999 changed the dynamics of Division III.

"PLU, doing what they did by coming out of nowhere, earned respect for teams on the West Coast," Locey says. "It gave us great confidence."

Linfield won three national championships in the NAIA division (1982, '84 and '86) and the switch to NCAA Division III was completed in 1998. The Wildcats' history of performance includes 49 consecutive winning seasons.

"We're getting over that bias," says Occidental coach Dale Widolff, who has been with the Tigers since 1982. "There are only 12 or 14 schools out here that play Division III, and there has been a lack of respect for the caliber of competition here. Our league hasn't done well in the playoffs in the past, but part of it is that we've usually had to travel. I see that changing."

### TOP 25

**Linfield** is certainly considered a contender to repeat as champions, a feat that has become increasingly tougher in a dramatically more competitive division. The Wildcats, a perfect 13-0 last year, have eight starters back on defense, but it's the six back on offense that have everyone in Oregon excited.

Quarterback Brett Elliott was all-everything in 2004. He threw 61 touchdown passes, the most-ever in a single season by a college quarterback. Elliott, a transfer from Division I Utah, had 4,595 passing yards and only 11 interceptions in 437 attempts.

"Brett was the starter at Utah, broke his wrist in the second game and lost his starting position," Locey says. "He got his release and we're certainly pleased to have him. He's a high-profile athlete."

Two senior receivers who combined for 139 catches, 2,174 yards and 33 TDs last year—Casey Allen and Brandon Hazenberg—are also back. Allen was the big-play gun last year in what Locey calls an "ace-back offense." The attack averaged 510.8 yards and 50 points a game last year. The bad news is that only center Dwight Donaldson and tackle Jake Lucey are back on the offensive line, and a new running back must be found.

All four linemen return on defense along with both linebackers, including Brandon Olson (110 tackles). The question on that side of the ball will be the play of new cornerbacks.

Even with the emergence of Linfield, most people familiar with Division III will still tell you **Mount Union** will remain the team to beat for the foreseeable future. And it makes sense.

The Purple Raiders have advanced to at least the national semifinals for 10 consecutive seasons. They have won seven national championships since 1993 and have a 104-game regular season winning streak. Coach Larry Kehres has won 91.4 percent of his games as he enters his 20th season at Mount Union.

With issues unsettled at the skilled positions, the offense will be built around a veteran line that features tackle Tom Manning. The quarterback will come from competition involving senior Randy Mason and junior Mike Jorris, as the duo attempted just 27 passes between them in 2004. Junior Aaron Robinson will likely become the featured back, along with fullback Kelechi Ibeh. Scott Casto will likely be the featured receiver.

Kehres likes his defense, which will rely on the play of tackle Jesse Wells, cornerback Ross Watson, ends Justen Stickley and Greg Brauer, linebacker Matt Gibbons and strong safety Ken Whitfield.

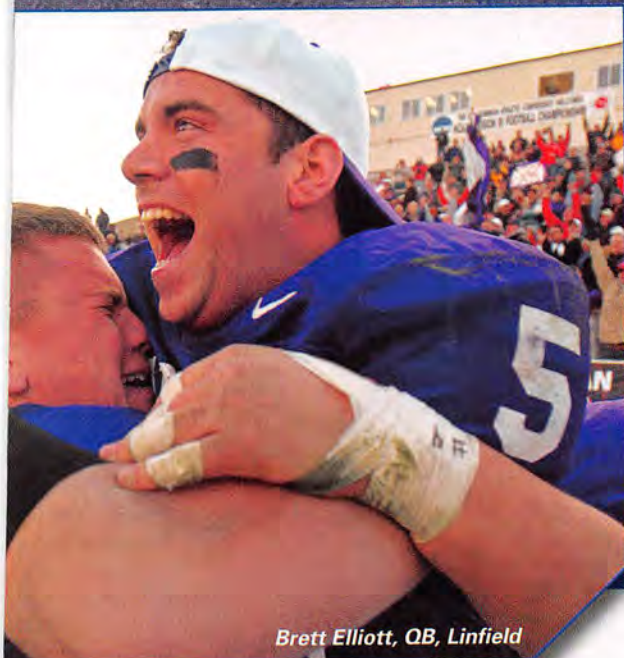
**Rowan** has many weapons and could be in a position to make it back to the championship game for the sixth time since 1993. The Profs are still searching for their first national title.

Quarterback Mike Orihel, a junior, was superb last year as he tossed for 3,244 yards and 40 TDs. He passed for at least four touchdowns in six games, and managed to rush for five more scores. Sakeen Wright, a transfer from East Carolina, grabbed 64 passes for 853 yards and 16 TDs. He returns, along with Phil Silva, who had 46 catches. On defense, the Profs will be solid up front with Brian Bond (10 sacks), Keith Heimerl (9) and linebacker Randy Tosh (93 tackles).

**St. John's** took a rare break from the playoffs last year with a second-place conference finish. But don't expect the Johnnies, under legendary coach John Gagliardi, to be down long. Gagliardi has more wins than any collegiate coach (421) and led his team to the national title in 2003. He will be entering his 57th season.

The team will be built around defense, with eight starters back. Tackle Jason Good returns after delivering 16 tackles for loss, including 12.5 sacks. Nose tackle Damien Dumonceaux (63 tackles), end Kevin McNamara (9.5 sacks), linebacker Jamie Steffensmeier and cornerback Tony Steffensmeier (two interception returns for





Brett Elliott, QB, Linfield

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Linfield
2. Mount Union
3. Rowan
4. Saint John's
5. Mary Hardin-Baylor
6. Washington & Jefferson
7. Delaware Valley
8. Ohio Northern
9. Occidental
10. Hardin-Simmons
11. Wittenberg
12. Trinity (Texas)
13. Bridgewater
14. Salisbury
15. Wisconsin-La Crosse
16. St. Norbert
17. Wheaton (Ill.)
18. Alma
19. Muhlenberg
20. Carthage
21. St. John Fisher
22. Olivet
23. Wisconsin-Eau Claire
24. Capital
25. Whitworth

## GAMES TO WATCH

<b>Sept. 3</b>	St. John's at Wisconsin-Eau Claire
<b>Sept. 3</b>	Rowan at Christopher Newport
<b>Sept. 24</b>	DePauw at Trinity (Texas)
<b>Oct. 8</b>	Linfield at Whitworth
<b>Oct. 15</b>	Albright at Delaware Valley
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Mary Hardin-Baylor at Hardin-Simmons
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Ohio Northern at Mount Union
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Alma at Albion
<b>Nov. 12</b>	Augustana at Wheaton

TDs) are all big-play performers. And the Johnnies' offense should be much improved, with seven starters back. Sophomore quarterback Alex Kofoed threw for 2,009 yards and 20 scores last year. Running back Mike Lofboom is a threat running and receiving.

The football program at **Mary Hardin-Baylor** is only eight years old, but the Crusaders are already making noise. They are 49-7 over the past five seasons and advanced to the Stagg Bowl last year, losing to Linfield by a touchdown. Fourteen of last year's starting 22 players, including eight on defense, return.

The Crusaders like to run the ball, averaging 342.1 running yards a game. Three proven tailbacks are back in Justin Bryson (1,869 yards, 15 TDs), Freddie Rollins (1,070, 13) and Anthony Carter (537, 7). Leading receiver P.J. Williams is also back, along with quarterbacks Andy Padron and Josh Welch, who complement each other nicely. Free safety Josh Kubiak (100 tackles, 4 interceptions) leads an experienced defense.

**Washington & Jefferson** has been the ringleader in the Presidents' Athletic Conference and will likely continue to do so this season, with eight starters on offense and seven on defense returning from a 12-1 squad. The combination of quarterback Chris Edwards to receiver Aaron Krepps will be among the nation's best. Krepps grabbed 70 passes for 979 yards and 15 scores a year ago and can make things happen running the ball and returning kicks, too. Edwards passed for 38 TDs and 3,307 yards last season.

On defense, Nick Cherish, a transfer from West Virginia, will be heard from often. He had six interceptions in 2004. Three of the top five tacklers on defense are gone.

In a blink of an eye, **Delaware Valley** has become a force in Division III. The Aggies were 2-8 in 2002 and are now national contenders following back-to-back seasons of 9-2 and 12-1, respectively. They return nine starters on offense and eight on defense. The offense, which delivered six fourth-quarter comebacks a year ago, is led by senior quarterback Adam Knoblauch, who passed for 3,235 yards and rushed for 420. He accounted for 36 touchdowns. Receivers David Carmon (78 catches, 1,159 yards) and Don Marshall (50, 1,030) are keys and tailback Steve Cook rushed for 1,470 yards and 14 TDs. Anthony Silver and Matt Wallick are strong up front on defense.

**Ohio Northern**, like other members of the Ohio Athletic Conference, often gets lost in the hoopla surrounding conference rival Mount Union. But the Polar Bears could threaten to wrestle away the league title this year. They won seven of their last eight games a year ago, losing only to Mount Union. Ten starters are back from a defense that allowed 302.5 yards a game. Defensive end Jason Trusnik could be the best defensive player in the country. He led the nation in sacks (18) and tackles for loss (31). He finished with 101 tackles, three forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries.

Defensive backs Wes Hostetler and Rusty Midlam are key returnees, as is linebacker Rick Danison. All-conference performers at quarterback, running back and receiver are gone, but there are high hopes for quarterback Adam Quirk, who had seven total TDs last year. Derreck Garrod will step in at running back and Brian Lee is the top receiver. The entire offensive line is back.

A year ago, **Occidental** recorded its first playoff win since 1985 and has plenty of experience—nine starters on both sides of the ball—back from a 10-win season. There are plenty of weapons





P.J. Williams, WR, Mary Hardin-Baylor

back on offense, including quarterback Andy Collins (2,373 passing yards and 24 TDs). The Tigers return players who were responsible for 1,898 of the 2,498 passing yards last season and four seniors on the line. The defense will revolve around linebacker Mike Bryant, the league's top defensive player.

Offense has been a trademark for **Hardin-Simmons** and there are many weapons back from a unit that gained nearly 508 yards a game. But Cowboy fans could be talking more about defense this year, with eight starters back. End Reggie Robinson had 12 sacks a year ago, and Nivek Hatcher and Anthony Thomas are solid. Cornerback Will Galusha had eight interceptions. The Cowboys do have talent on offense as usual, even though only five starters return. Guard Joseph Hernandez and tackle Tye Conry are exceptional up front, and they will be counted on to protect senior quarterback Jordan Neal, a three-year starter who will likely leave with all of the school's passing records. He completed 66.4 percent of his passes a year ago. Jared May will be a big-play receiver and kick returner.

Having seasons of 8-2 and 7-3 would be acceptable at many schools, but **Wittenberg**—Division III's all-time winningest program—considers the past two seasons to be "down years." But 17 starters and 55 lettermen return. The offense scored 40 points a game last year and have nine starters back, including quarterback Ryan Holmes. He will lead an explosive offense that includes tailback Tristan Murray (1,320 yards and 21 total TDs) and receiver Jered Glover, who led the team in receptions last season. The defense must improve and eight starters are back. Three starters return to the line and secondary, while two linebackers return. The Tigers also have a solid kicking game.

**Trinity** has established a dynasty within the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, having won 12 straight titles. The Tigers, who have also appeared in eight straight playoffs, have only five starters back on offense and defense. Yet the expectations continue, with the Texas school's leading rusher and receiver returning along with three offensive linemen. Jacob Cannon's play at quarterback will be critical after he threw only 26 passes last season. Receiver Robert Kelner can hurt you catching the ball and returning kicks. Jerrold Jones topped 1,000 rushing yards last year, averaging 112.1 a game. Dustin Allen is back to lead the defense after turning in 18 tackles for loss.

**Bridgewater** hasn't lost a conference game in four years and will be favored to

duplicate the feat again this year, with a wealth of experience back. On defense, 17 of the top 22 on the depth chart are back, including seven starters. There also are 16 of the top 22 offensive players back. The key will be the play at quarterback, where Jacob Lewis and Jeff Highfill will inherit the starting role. Tailbacks Winston Young and Marcus Washington both have 1,000-yard potential. Brian Awkard is a big-play threat as a receiver and kick returner. Safety Adrian Herndon and end Antonio Burt are forces on defense.

Few teams have been as successful as **Salisbury** in recent years. The Sea Gulls went 10-1 a year ago and have won 26 of their last 31 games. They have eight starters back on offense and seven on defense. Running back Leroy Satchell will be a key to the offensive success after rushing for 1,259 yards and scoring 15 times. Dustin Johnson also returns at quarterback, along with three starting linemen. The defense allowed only 13.1 points a game last year, and end Andrew Deming and cornerback Byron Westbrook (8 INTs) both return.

Despite losing 22 seniors and 13 of the 22 starters, **Wisconsin-La Crosse** remains the team to beat in the competitive Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Eagles, with 532 wins in 92 seasons, rank second in Division III in all-time winning percentage at .688. Defense will be critical to success this year, with free safety Kenneth Halvorson (79 tackles and four fumble recoveries) and cornerback Steve Teeple (7 INTs) back to lead the effort. Quarterback Steve Tennies will be called on to lead the young offense and must reduce his interceptions. Corey Geldernick rushed for 959 yards a year ago and three offensive linemen return.

**St. Norbert** ran through its conference last year without a loss and has 14 of 22 starters back. Running back Casey Meehan will likely be the school's all-time rusher before leaving, coming off a season where he rushed for 1,286 yards and scored 25 total TDs. T.J. George grabbed 52 passes a year ago and three starters are back on the line. The key player on defense is Tony Mendina, who was second on the team in

tackles from the secondary.

**Wheaton** will turn to its defense as it tries to continue its dominance in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin. The Thunder will try to win its fourth league title within five years, and seven quality performers are back on defense.

Free safety Todd

Travis had 71 tackles and five interceptions a year ago, and middle linebacker Jeff Grandy is back from injury. Only three starters return on offense, but quarterback Jeremy Chupp is one of them.

The **Alma** offense had a lot of fun last season with its four-receiver attack known as "Scot-Gun," setting a school record with 4,836 yards of total offense. The fun should continue with eight starters back, including quarterback Josh Brehm. He threw for 3,145 yards and 29 TDs a year ago. The receiving twins combo of Tyler and Cole Thelen are back, along with the entire offensive line. Five starters are back on defense, with safety Chad Abbey leading the way after returning three interceptions for scores.

No one played defense better than **Muhlenberg** last year. The Mules surrendered only 195.5 yards per game, which led all NCAA divisions. Eight starters are back to the unit, led by ends Dan McCall and Tom Wargacki (9.5 tackles for loss and four fumble recoveries) and cornerbacks Justin Adair and Mike McCurley. The offense must show dramatic improvement after a low-scoring '04 season, and a new quarterback will be added to the mix.

**Carthage** needed one season to turn a 3-7 season into an 11-2 team that advanced to the national quarterfinals. But the offensive workhorse, Dante Washington, is gone after 463 carries last season. In fact, only four starters are back on offense. Fortunately, the Redmen have 10 starters back on defense, including six all-conference performers. Linebacker Brandon Fox and cornerback Brett Barnes delivered big plays all season and return.

Running back Mark Robinson will be counted on to carry **St. John Fisher** back to the playoffs. He rushed for 2,194 yards and scored 25 total touchdowns as a sophomore last season. Noah Fehrenbach had nearly 1,000 receiving yards and had 12 TDs.



However, a new quarterback will be needed to stabilize the offense. Steve Stepnick is one of only four returning defensive starters.

**Olivet** could be a favorite to represent Michigan in the playoffs. The Fighting Comets were 8-2 and have nine starters on both offense and defense back. The Wing-T offense, which piled up 17.1 rushing yards per game, returns all five starters on the line, along with running back Travis Sleight. The Comets had 678 rushing yards against Ohio Wesleyan. A new quarterback is needed, and Marcus Robinson could be the solution. The defense was much better in the latter half of the season and has plenty of experience back.

**Wisconsin-Eau Claire** could be the team that replaces rival La Crosse if the Eagles falter. The key will be finding a consistent performer at quarterback. Jesse Krzyzanowski is the likely replacement, and he will call on tailback Joe Gast (915 yards and 10 TDs). Matt Evensen and Tony Hull are key receiving targets. The Blugolds are set on defense, with linebacker Jared Roeker back to lead the way, while all four members of the secondary return.

**Capital** has a big weapon in quarterback Rocky Pentello, who passed for nearly 260 yards per game in 2004. Three of the top four receivers are back, along with all of the key runners and three offensive linemen. On defense, three of the four starters in the secondary, including Kyle Hausler (7 INTs) return, as do all three linebackers and both ends.

Offense has become essential to success on the West Coast and **Whitworth** has plenty of big-play performers. Quarterback Joel Clark passed for 2,289 yards and 18 TDs, Jared Thomas had 50 catches and running back Kyle Hovercraft scored 11 rushing touchdowns.

## BEST OF THE REST

Running back Dan Hammes can lead **Wartburg** into the playoffs if he can duplicate his 1,000-plus-yard season. Linebacker Alex Pollack and end Noah Junge lead the defense. **Christopher Newport** has made four consecutive trips to the playoffs and is expected to continue the pace behind quarterback Hudson Bryant, who had 20 TDs a year ago.

**Augustana** has potential to be very good offensively with nine starters back, including tackle Mike Zeifert and quarterback

Matt Roe, who will direct the triple-option attack. **Johns Hopkins** has 63 lettermen back from a 9-2 squad, including nine defensive starters. Matt Hagel, Mike Barrasso and Max Whitacre lead the defensive unit.

**Shenandoah** made the playoffs last year and has 15 starters back, including all-conference performers at fullback, tailback, tight end and two line spots. Fourteen players who made at least one start are back on defense. **Curry** goes for its third straight playoff berth and has seven starters back on offense and defense.

The defense could carry **Adrian** back to the playoffs as end Mike Lewis (14 sacks), defensive back Dan McKeown (14 career interceptions) and linebacker Taz Wallace (155 tackles) are all solid. The unit allowed 13.8 points per game last year. Defense will also be critical for **Hobart** as the Statesmen try to win the league title for the fourth consecutive year. Jamie Anderson and Tony Clemente lead the defense, but quarterback Shawn Mizro is one of only three starters back on offense. **DePauw** could be ready to unseat Trinity in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Eight starters return from a defense that yielded 56 points during the final five games. Quarterback Ross Wiethoff leads the offense.

Quarterback John Port (3,799 yards and 35 TDs) and linebacker Pete Manotti (107 tackles) will make **Albright** a contender. **North Central** could be the sleeper in the Midwest, with 10 defensive and eight offensive starters back, including the passing tandem of Kam Kniss (62 percent pass completion rate, 2,446 yards and 20 TDs) and Tyke Spencer (81 catches, 1,306 yards). **Bridgewater State** has 20 of 22 starters back, including running back Brenden Kavey (1,310 yards) and will be favored in the New England Football Conference. Experience will also be key for **Simpson**, with 19 starters back. Dusty Kain had 76 catches for 1,000 yards a year ago.

**Lakeland College** could surprise many, with 20 of 22 starters back from a 7-3 squad, including the entire backfield and offensive line from a unit that rushed for 318 yards per game. Quarterback Mike Schmidtke (23 TD passes) and tailback Peter Ereg (1,485 rushing yards) will lead **MacMurray's** bid to win the Illini-Badger Conference. **Texas Lutheran** improved from 2-8 to 7-3 last year and has 10 defensive starters and quarterback Sean Salinas back. **Moravian** gained 404.6 yards a game last season and has 10 starters back, including running back Chris Jacoubs (1,789 and 16 TDs).

## 2005 DIVISION 3 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	Size	Class	School
WR	Casey Allen	6-3, 220	Sr.	Linfield
WR	David Carmon	6-2, 185	Jr.	Delaware Valley
OL	Tom Manning	6-1, 277	Sr.	Mount Union
OL	Rick Drushal	6-4, 310	Jr.	Wooster
OL	Michael Loiseau	6-4, 283	Sr.	Rowan
OL	Mike Zeifert	6-1, 235	Sr.	Augustana
OL	Josh Van Laan	6-3, 225	Jr.	Olivet
TE	Jon Branche	6-3, 220	Jr.	Rensselaer
QB	Brett Elliott	6-3, 200	Sr.	Linfield
RB	Mark Robinson	5-11, 215	Jr.	St. John Fisher
RB	Justin Bryson	5-8, 195	Sr.	Mary Hardin-Baylor
PK	Cam Collings	6-1, 177	Sr.	Whitworth

### DEFENSE

Pos.	Name	Size	Class	School
DL	Jason Trusnik	6-5, 230	Sr.	Ohio Northern
DL	Jason Good	6-0, 240	Sr.	St. John's
DL	Mike Lewis	6-2, 240	Sr.	Adrian
DL	Jason Ripke	6-4, 231	Sr.	Simpson
LB	Lenny Radtke	6-1, 210	Sr.	North Central
LB	Taz Wallace	6-1, 225	Jr.	Adrian
LB	Mike Bryant	6-3, 220	Sr.	Occidental
DB	Kyle Hausler	5-9, 165	Sr.	Capital
DB	Will Galusha	5-8, 175	Jr.	Hardin-Simmons
DB	Brett Bueltel	6-4, 205	Jr.	Rose-Hulman
DB	Byron Westbrook	5-10, 185	Jr.	Salisbury
P	Kevin Soflikiancs	5-9, 175	So.	Baldwin-Wallace

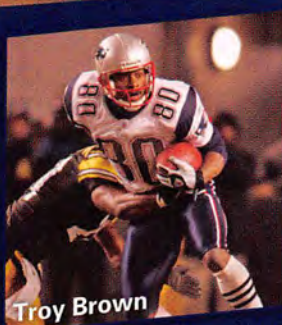


# JUNIOR COLLEGE REPORT

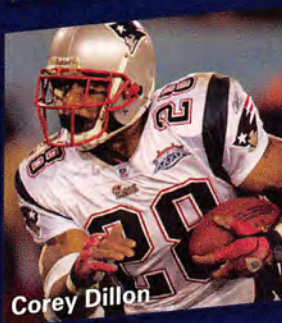
(Deion) Branches don't fall far from the tree in the juco ra where College of the Canyons looks to be the best of the



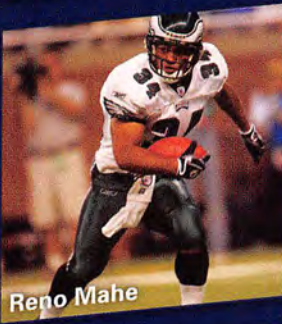
Last year's Super Bowl featured seven players who at one time attended junior college, including Philadelphia's Reno Mahe and Jerome McDougale, as well as three Patriot players who had a big role in the Pats' win: tailback Corey Dillon, WR/CB Troy Brown and Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch.



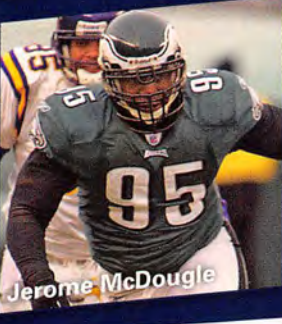
Troy Brown



Corey Dillon



Reno Mahe



Jerome McDougale

By Tony Jimenez  
Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

Whatever you do, don't get coach Parker Dykes of Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Miss., started on New England Patriots star Deion Branch, junior college football's latest and greatest claim to fame. In Dykes' eyes, Branch was nothing short of the perfect juco student-athlete. He was that way when he arrived on campus, stayed that way for two seasons in the late 1990s and left that way.

On and off the field.

Branch honed his skills as a wide receiver at obscure Jones County before going on to Louisville and then to New England, where he won MVP honors in last year's Super Bowl.

"Deion was one great kid here," recalls Dykes, a former player at Jones (1961-62) who begins his 14th season at the school and his 41st in coaching. "He was always smiling and friendly. Everybody on campus liked him."

Branch was far from the only former JC player in the biggest of football games, the Super Bowl. Others included New England's Troy Brown (Lees-McRae, N.C.), Corey Dillon (Garden City, Kan., and Dixie State, Utah) and Keith Traylor (Coffeyville, Kan.) and Philadelphia's Reno Mahe (Dixie State), Jermaine Mayberry (Navarro, Texas) and Jerome McDougale (Hinds, Miss.).

"Seven former JC players in the Super Bowl speaks for itself," says Hank Ives of JC Grid Wire, the nation's foremost junior-college scouting service. "That's a pretty impressive number. The JCs have proved themselves over the years, and they did again with this showing."

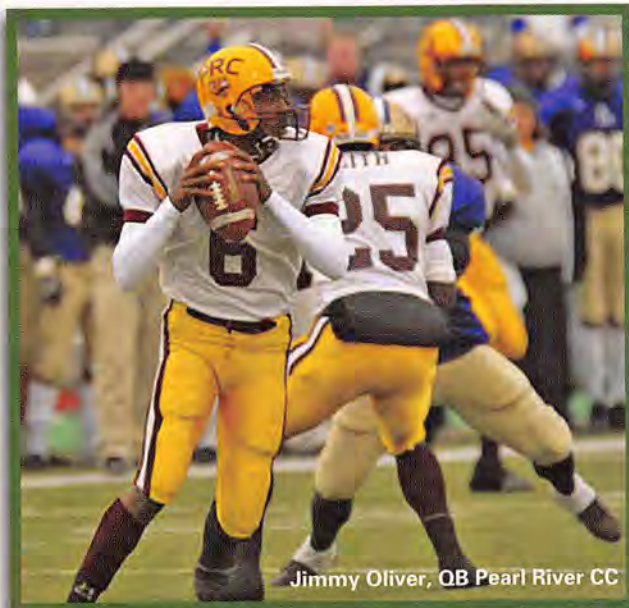
So, where do we look for the next crop of juco players going to the Super Bowl? Check out this year's *Street & Smith's* Junior College Top 25:

## 1. College of the Canyons (Calif.), 14-0 in '04

Coach Chuck Lyon lived the dream of every coach in the country a year ago when his team posted a perfect record. It would be



realistic to expect  
is team to repeat  
the feat, but Lyon's  
ougars—25-1 the past  
vo seasons—have  
arved out a nice niche  
among the elite in the  
ation's two-year-  
chool ranks. Nine  
eturning starters on  
ffense or defense will  
rovide the impetus for  
nother big season for  
of C, which operates  
shotgun offense  
bout 80 percent of the  
ime. Look for running  
ack Brandon Clayton,  
n electrifying runner,  
o pump plenty of  
ife into that offense.  
Defensively, linebacker  
oey LaRocque, who  
nas above-average  
instincts and is a  
by-the-book tackler, and cornerback  
Justin Tryon, a speed merchant,  
are the pacesetters.



Jimmy Oliver, QB Pearl River CC

## 2. Pearl River

(Miss.) CC, 12-0

When fourth-year coach Tim Hatten arrived in Poplarville, it was only natural he recruit high school players from Florida (there are no football-playing JCs in the state) given he coached in the Haines City prep ranks for 14 years. Hatten has also found some ultra-athletic in-state players in making P.R. a feared team in the Southern juco ranks. Hatten has boosted his team's season record from 7-3 in 2002 to 10-1 in 2003 and to 12-0 and a National JC Athletic Association championship in 2004.

Thanks to the return of quarterback Jimmy Oliver, the NJCAA's Offensive Player of the Year as a freshman after having thrown for 3,487 yards (290.6 per game) and 40 TDs in 2004, the Wildcats will again be hard to beat. Other 'Cats to watch: defensive tackle Frank Harry, a fast 6-4, 280-pounder; defensive end Ben McGilton (6-3, 250), who has bench-pressed 395 pounds; and speedy running back Mike McClendon.

## 3. Butler County

(Kan.) CC, 11-1

Sixth-year coach Troy Morrell's not the kind of guy to sugarcoat anything, and that's why when he says this may be his best team ever in El Dorado, you better take notice. After all, the Cincinnati Bengals' Rudi Johnson played here in 1997-98. Morrell has amassed a 53-7 record at Butler, going 12-0 with an NJCAA championship in 2003 and 10-2 in each of the three seasons prior to that.

He's high on this year's Grizzlies because eight starters return (four on offense and four on defense). Look for running backs

Ryan Torain and Kenny Wilson, offensive tackle Sherrone Moore (6-6, 295) and defensive tackle Paul Griffin (6-0, 280) to have big sophomore seasons.

Torain (6-2, 210) and Wilson (6-1, 210) have good size and 4.4 40s. Moore has excellent athleticism and moves well for his size, while Griffin was one of only four freshmen to make first-team NJCAA All-America on defense last year.

## 4. City College of San Francisco

11-1

Coach George Rush begins his 29th season on the bay as part of a tradition-rich history. He was a freshman cornerback for the Rams when O.J. Simpson was a sophomore here in 1966. Since 1999, the Rams have a 68-3 record, going undefeated in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. The wins should continue to mount. Maurice Purify, an athletic 6-foot-5, and Aaron Straiten, who has great hands, are big-time wide receivers. Linebacker Larry Grant may well be one of the school's best athletes ever.

San Francisco will have plenty of team speed to go with its usual prime-time work ethic, and it might be enough for another appearance in California's championship playoff game. Last year they lost in the title game to the College of the Canyons, 39-32.

## 5. Dixie State College of Utah

10-2

It could be as early as 2006, but the Rebels are expected to bow out of the JC ranks to join NCAA Division II. No matter where they play, Dixie State, which is loaded with speed and a big-time running game in 2005, will always be a team to be dealt with under coach Greg Croshaw.

With six returning starters on defense and five on offense, experience abounds. Linebackers Misi Tupe and Gene Fakatumafi are hard hitters with good

speed. Running back J.T. Diederichs, one of the best on the national JC circuit in recent years, rushed for 1,851 yards and 22 touchdowns as a freshman. His most impressive effort came in the Rotary Bowl, where he gained 150 yards in the second half despite playing with a broken foot. He'll have his path cleared by Kawika Vincent, a guy who is as tough as he is big (6-5, 285).

## 6. Grossmont CC

(Calif.), 11-1

If coaching experience translates into wins, Grossmont will win big, given Dave Jordan begins his 36th season at the helm with nothing but a history of success to lean on. Jordan has 10 returning starters this time around, including plenty of experience on the offensive line and in the secondary. Quarterback Reilly Murphy, a strong and intelligent player, highlights the list of returnees. He'll be good most of the time because he's operating behind linemen Jake Bingham (6-4, 325), who was at Arizona State last season but didn't play, and C.J. Bryant, a smart player with quick feet.

Defensively, the blue-chip prospects include lineman Brian Standbra, safety-turned-cornerback Moziqque McCurtis and Devon Jones, who started at a corner as a freshman.

## 7. Butte CC

(Calif.), 9-2

The town of Oroville, located just 80 miles north of Sacramento, is so small it's not on a lot of maps of California. Make no mistake, however, as four-year-school coaches know the way there.

Butte has sent an average of about 15 players per season up the collegiate ladder, according to coach Craig Riggsbee, who has put in 15 years directing the school's football program.

With nine starters back on both offense and defense, plus a decent crop of freshmen, expect the Roadrunners to continue to prosper. Webster Patrick, a bruising, 5-9, 200-pounder, is the state's top returning statistical rusher. In 2004 he gained 1,940 yards, averaging 10.3 yards per carry in the regular season.

Among the expected defensive standouts are linebacker Judah Garrett (6-3, 230) and free safety Jameel Dowling (6-4, 200).

## 8. Saddleback CC

(Calif.), 11-2

While it may seem odd to have a 6-4, 325-pound deep snapper, as is the case with Ian Hammond, it's business as usual for one of the nation's most successful programs. With a rock-solid defense and some good leaders, the Gauchos are the real deal. For his part, Hammond is the best deep snapper coach Mark McElroy says he has ever had in his program. Hammond's also a large load to deal with from his slot on the offensive line.

Other expected standouts for Saddleback include wide receiver Quincy Lever, who



was recruited by Notre Dame out of Foothill High School in Tustin, Calif.; running back Daniel Dixon, a 5-8, 205-pound transfer from Cerritos (Calif.) College who has great vision and a knack for breaking tackles; a pair of Clarks (not related) at linebacker, Casey and Zach; and punter Andrew Larson, who had a 43-yard average as a freshman.

## 9. Trinity Valley CC

(Texas), 3-7

Don't be misled by Trinity Valley's record of a year ago, because third-year coach Mark Sartain, the school's offensive coordinator before taking charge, is finally going to see the fruits of his first back-to-back recruiting classes. And that bodes well for the Cardinals' following.

With 40 sophomores and a handful of redshirts on hand—among them seven offensive and five defensive starters—experience will be a big plus.

The best of the Cardinals' flock will most likely be Thomas Cook, an athletic quarterback with a strong arm. Wide receiver Torey Degrate (6-1, 180), a Texas A&M signee, is a big-play guy. Fullback Thurman Blake is best known for his vicious blocking, while defensive tackle Freddie Barnett (6-1, 310), an Arkansas signee, will see more than his share of double teams.

## 10. Scottsdale

(Ariz.) CC, 9-2

Coach Ken Giovando, who's been coaching here since 1972, is set to have his best team at Scottsdale, which has produced the likes of NFL players Charlie Garner and Tim Rattay. The school

now has another player Giovando says is destined to "play on Sundays and make millions" in defensive end Louis Holmes. The Miami native runs a 4.4 40, but his biggest asset, Giovando says, might be that he has his ego firmly in check. Other expected sophomore standouts on a team that returns 13 of 22 starters include hard-hitting safety Brandon Robertson and offensive tackle Devin Clark.

## BEST OF THE REST

11. Coffeyville (Kan.) CC, 10-2
12. Glendale (Ariz.) CC, 6-4
13. Grand Rapids (Mich.) CC, 9-2
14. Fresno City (Calif.), 8-3
15. San Joaquin Delta (Calif.), 9-2
16. Kilgore (Texas), 10-2
17. Blinn (Texas), 9-2
18. Snow (Utah), 7-4
19. Jones County (Miss.) JC, 7-3
20. William Rainey Harper (Ill.), 9-2
21. Georgia Military (5-5)
22. Cerritos (Calif.), 3-7
23. Foothill (Calif.), 8-3
24. Northeast Oklahoma A&M, 4-5
25. El Camino CC (Calif.), 8-3

# TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

## OFFENSE >>>

			Juco (future school)
Joseph Ayoub	QB	6-3, 215	City College of San Francisco (California)
Eldra Buckley	RB	6-0, 180	Northwest, Miss. (Chattanooga)
Joe Harris	RB	5-9, 190	L.A. Harbor, Calif. (West Texas A&M)
Brandon Fractious	RB	5-11, 195	Chaffey, Calif. (East Carolina)
Jason Vandiver	TE	6-3, 260	Fullerton, Calif. (Oregon State)
Larry Brackins	WR	6-5, 220	Pearl River, Miss. (filed for NFL Draft)
Jerard Rabb	WR	6-3, 205	Saddleback, Calif. (Boise State)
Paul Fisher	OL	6-8, 320	Dixie State, Utah (Iowa St.)
Adam Hawes	OL	6-7, 295	Yuba City, Calif. (Arizona St.)
Palauni Ma Sun Jr.	OL	6-6, 315	Fresno City, Calif. (Oregon)
Brock Pasteur	OL	6-6, 315	Mesabi Range, Minn. (Nebraska)

## DEFENSE >>>

Ishmail Abdunafi	DL	6-3, 290	Bakersfield, Calif. (Illinois)
Gabe Long	DL	6-3, 270	Fullerton, Calif. (Southern California)
Dallas Mauga	DL	6-1, 300	Grossmont, Calif. (San Diego St.)
C.J. Ah You	DL	6-4, 262	Snow, Utah (Oklahoma)
Desmond Bishop	LB	6-2, 240	City College of San Francisco (California)
Anthony Kelly	LB	6-3, 230	Jones, Miss. (Florida St.)
Alain Karatepeyan	LB	6-2, 245	L.A. Pierce, Calif. (Tulsa)
Zachary Bowman	DB	6-3, 210	New Mexico Military (Nebraska)
Josh Gomez	DB	6-0, 205	Palomar, Calif. (San Diego St.)
John Guice	DB	5-9, 185	Grossmont, Calif. (UNLV)
Levance Richmond	DB	6-0, 190	Pearl River, Miss. (Southern Miss)

## SPECIALISTS >>>

Harrison Kush	RS	5-10, 185	Coffeyville, Kan. (Pittsburg St.)
Brian Pacheco	P	5-11, 200	Glendale, Ariz. (UNLV)
Robert Lee	PK	5-10, 190	Trinity Valley, Texas (East Carolina)



# SUPER SOPHOMORES

## OFFENSE

Name	POS	HT, WT	JUCO
Jimmy Oliver	QB	6-0, 175	Pearl River, Miss.
J.T. Diederichs	RB	6-1, 225	Dixie State, Utah
James Johnson	RB	6-0, 190	Blinn, Texas
Webster Patrick	RB	5-9, 200	Butte, Calif.
Aaron Munoz	TE	6-6, 240	Palomar, Calif.
Maurice Purify	WR	6-5, 210	City College of San Francisco
Eric McCain	WR	6-5, 200	Glendale, Ariz.
Ian Hammond	OL	6-4, 325	Saddleback, Calif.
Clarence Bailey	OL	6-6, 315	Lackawanna, Pa.
Larry So'oalo	OL	6-3, 310	Fresno City, Calif.
Adrian Brown	OL	6-6, 350	Hudson Valley, N.Y.

## DEFENSE

Name	POS	HT, WT	JUCO
Aaron Tonga	L	6-3, 270	Mt. San Antonio, Calif.

Name	POS	HT, WT	JUCO
Paul Griffin	DL	6-0, 280	Butler, Kan.
Louis Holmes	DL	6-6, 273	Scottsdale, Ariz.
Freddie Barnett	DL	6-1, 310	Trinity Valley, Texas
Misi Tupe	LB	6-0, 235	Dixie State, Utah
Antonio Steele	LB	6-2, 215	Long Beach City, Calif.
Antonio Richardson	LB	6-1, 210	Jones, Miss.
Nate Ness	DB	6-1, 180	El Camino, Calif.
Andre Jones	DB	6-0, 195	Fresno City, Calif.
Geoff Tisdale	DB	6-2, 175	L.A. Valley, Calif.
Chase Palmer	DB	6-3, 210	Snow, Utah

## SPECIALISTS

Name	POS	HT, WT	JUCO
Mike Bolio	RS	6-0, 190	L.A. Harbor, Calif.
Michael Cohen	P	5-11, 200	Kilgore, Texas
Luke Dreiling	PK	5-9, 175	Garden City, Kan.

## OTHERS >>>

## Juco (future school)

Rodney Allen	L	6-4, 268	Garden City, Kan. (Kansas)
Deyontae Batiste	DL	6-2, 343	Iowa Central (SW Missouri St.)
Marcel Benson	OL	6-7, 320	San Diego Mesa, Calif. (Louisville)
Chip Brown	DL	6-3, 270	Kilgore, Texas (Texas A&M-Commerce)
Larry Brown	DL	6-3, 295	Georgia Military (Oklahoma St.)
Steve Burch	DT	6-2, 280	Dodge City, Kan. (Nebraska)
Joel Cohen	C	6-0, 260	DuPage, Ill. (Oregon St.)
Clayton Cox	LB	6-3, 220	Garden City, Kan. (Southern Methodist)
Sam Downs	OL	6-3, 275	Grossmont, Calif. (Idaho St.)
Dennis Ellis	DL	6-4, 265	College of the Canyons (Boise St.)
James Finley	WR	6-3, 205	Compton, Calif. (Oregon)
Chad Green	DL	6-5, 220	Hinds, Miss. (N.C. State)
Frantz Hardy	WR	6-1, 180	Butler, Kan. (Nebraska)
Aleem Harris	DB	6-4, 215	Chaffey, Calif. (New Mexico)
Jarrod Jackson	QB	6-1, 205	Grossmont, Calif. (Nevada-Las Vegas)
Emory Jones	WR	6-4, 218	NE Mississippi (Michigan St.)
Brandon Keith	OL	6-6, 310	NE Oklahoma A&M (Oklahoma)
Soli Lefiti	DL	6-5, 255	Palomar, Calif. (Utah)
Matthew Lott	OL	6-3, 310	Pearl River, Miss. (Baylor)
Beau Manutai	LB	6-2, 240	Dixie State, Utah (Arizona St.)
Chris Mauga	OL	6-1, 305	Butler, Kan. (Murray State)
Ryan McBean	DL	6-5, 270	Hinds, Miss. (Oklahoma State)
Edorian McCullough	DB	5-11, 190	City College of San Francisco (Oregon St.)
Fred McCutcheon	DL	6-2, 290	Long Beach, Calif. (San Jose St.)
Walter Nickel	TE	6-4, 240	Dixie State, Utah (Iowa State)
Deondrick Nunez	DB	5-10, 170	Snow, Utah (Friends University)
Mickey Pimental	LB	6-2, 220	Pima, Ariz. (California)
Louis Pintola	OL	6-5, 310	Pasadena, Calif. (Missouri)
Rasheed Prescott	DB	5-9, 180	Saddleback, Calif. (West Texas A&M)
Barry Quickstad	DB	6-1, 206	Rochester, Minn. (North Dakota State)
Jon Radford	LB	6-1, 230	NE Oklahoma A&M (Colorado St.)
Kerry Reed	WR	6-3, 195	Coffeyville, Kan. (Texas A&M)
J.K. Sabb	LB	6-0, 235	Georgia Military (Middle Tennessee)
Jonal Saint-Dic	DL	6-1, 260	Hudson Valley, N.Y. (Michigan St.)
Roy Sims	DL	6-5, 280	Gavilan, Calif. (Washburn)
Tyrell Smith	WR	6-0, 180	College of the Canyons (San Diego St.)
David Stanton	DL	6-5, 270	College of the Canyons (Michigan St.)
Zac Taylor	QB	6-2, 210	Butler, Kan. (Nebraska)
Allan Webster	RB	6-1, 235	Foothill, Calif. (San Jose St.)
Maurice White	DL	6-4, 270	Citrus, Calif. (Valdosta St.)

TOP JUCOS MOVING ON



# 'Noles

## on a roll

With 10 signees in the Top 100, Florida State has college football's top incoming recruiting class.

By Doug Huff



FSU coach Bobby Bowden landed the top recruiting class for 2005, including a playmaker in the speedy Fred Rouse.

Florida State is No. 1 ... in the annual recruiting race.

The Seminoles showed why patience is a virtue in the talent chase by closing strong on Signing Day Feb. 2 to reel in the nation's most touted class of prospects.

The Atlantic Coast Conference member landed 10 players rated among the nation's Top 100 prospects, including eight in the final week prior to Signing Day. Overall, FSU signed 22 prospects.

With the sprint to the recruiting finish line, the Seminoles overtook Oklahoma, defending *Street & Smith's* recruiting "champion" Southern California, Tennessee and Nebraska for the No. 1 honors.

In the final days of the recruiting "season," the Seminoles landed the following Top 100 prospects:

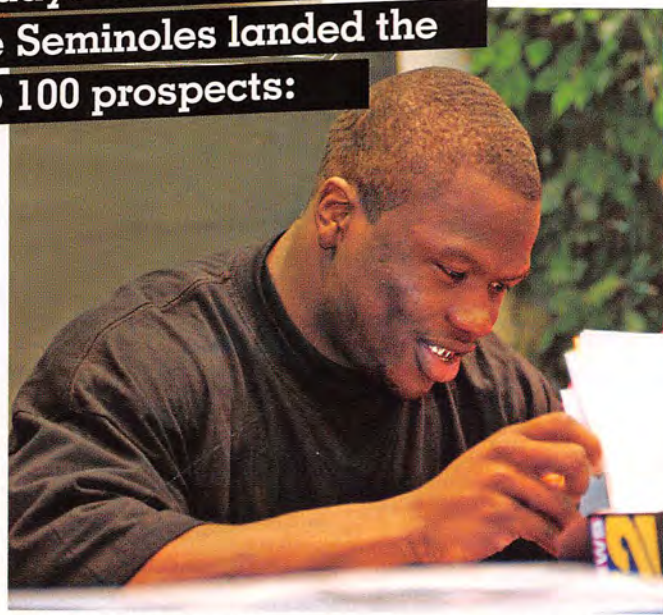
•Florida's Mr. Football honoree, running back Antone Smith of Pahokee, and wide receiver Fred Rouse of Lincoln High in hometown Tallahassee.

•Defensive tackle Callahan Bright from Harriton High in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

•Linebackers Eugene Hayes of Madison County in Madison, Fla.; Derek Nicholson of Mt. Tabor High in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Neefy Moffett of Palm Bay High in Melbourne, Fla.

•Defensive back Clarence Ward of Pensacola, Fla.

The earlier Seminole Top 100 recruits were defensive end Justin Mincey of Charlton County High in Folkston, Ga.,



defensive back Michael Ray Garvin of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsay, N.J., and punter/kicker Graham Gano of Tate High in Condonment, Fla.

Smith, who was a major target of the University of Miami among others, has been on the

Heralded by many as the top running back in Florida, Antone Smith waited until the last minute before deciding to attend Florida State over Miami.

recruiting radar screen since he broke out as a sophomore running back with more than

1,700 rushing yards at Pahokee. However, he played hurt much of his junior season, which placed a lot of the recruiting interest on hold.

The 5-foot-9, 190-pounder answered all questions as a senior when he led the Blue Devils to a repeat state Class 2B state title. He finished the season by equaling the state's season-scoring record with 44 touchdowns. He also rushed for 2,813 yards on 238 attempts for an 11.8-yard average. Ward started the season for defending Texas Class 4A champion La Marque before he transferred and finished the season at Pensacola. He joins former La Marque teammate, running back Russell Ball, in the Seminoles' recruiting class.

Four of the future Seminoles earned preseason *Street & Smith's* honors in 2004—Smith, Rouse, Moffett and Ward.

Here's the rest of *Street & Smith's* Top 10 incoming recruiting classes:



**Oklahoma:** The Sooners concentrated on defense in this class and the result was six Top 100 recruits to go with two touted wide receivers.

Oklahoma landed arguably the second-best linebacker trio in the nation with Ryan Reynolds of Bishop Gorman High in Las Vegas, Nev., Curtis Brown of Kingfisher, Okla., and Mont Robinson of Salem, N.J.

Joining that trio on the blue-chip defensive list are tackle Marcus Granger of Kimball High in Dallas, plus defensive backs Reggie Smith of Santa Fe in Edmond, Okla., and Keenan Clayton of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

The offensive recruits are led by top wide receivers Malcolm Kelly of Longview, Texas, and Eric Huggins of Conway, S.C.

Two other recruits earned state Player-of-the-Year honors—Matt Clapp, a fullback/linebacker from Paradise Valley, Ariz., and center Jesse White from Mullen Prep in Denver.

Three of the future Sooners were preseason All-America picks by *Street & Smith's*—Reynolds, Granger and Smith.

Overall, the Sooners signed 27 to grants-in-aid.

**3. Southern California:** The Trojans landed seven Top 100 prospects, including the No. 1 quarterback and the top linebacker trio.

The signal-caller is Mark Sanchez of Mission Viejo, Calif., the *Parade* National Player of the Year. The last two Trojan quarterbacks, including rising senior Matt Leinart and current Cincinnati Bengal Carson Palmer, won Heisman trophies and hail from the same area (Orange County) as Sanchez.

The linebacker trio includes two in-state products in Luther Brown of Lakewood and Rey Mauluga of Eureka, plus Brian Cushing of Bergen Catholic in Oradell, N.J., the state Defensive Player of the Year.

Other Top 100 recruits include wide receiver Patrick Turner of Goodpasture in Nashville, Tenn.; defensive ends Kyle Moore of Houston County in Warner Robins, Ga.; and Averell Spicer of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

The Trojans' 20 prospects included two preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America choices in Brown and Mauluga.

**4. Tennessee:** The Vols signed 27 recruits, including six Top 100 prospects. The most interesting signee is quarterback Jonathan Crompton of Waynesville High in Tuscola, N.C. He could challenge for playing time this fall despite the presence of Erik Ainge and Rick Clausen.

Two of the Top 100 signees failed to earn much high school recognition last season because of missed time due to injuries. They are running back LaMarcus Coker of Antioch, Tenn., and defensive safety Adam Myers-White of Hamilton, Ohio.

Besides Crompton, the most touted recruit is defensive back Demetrice Morley, who starred for Florida's Class 6A title team, Killian of Miami.

Three linebackers who could make an early impact are Rico McCoy of St. John's in Washington, D.C., Todd Cox of Harding Academy in Memphis and Andre Mathis of Cathedral Prep in Erie, Pa.

Also, defensive end Raymond Henderson of Oak Creek, Wis., and offensive lineman Chris Scott of Lovejoy, Ga., a 2004 preseason *Street & Smith's* All-American, are touted recruits.

**5. Nebraska:** The Cornhuskers may have struggled on the field last season, but the latest recruiting class may help to soothe the wounds.

Nebraska received commitments from 30 prospects, including five Top 100 signees—running back Marlon Lucky of North Hollywood, Calif., defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh of Grant High in Portland, Ore., linebacker Phillip Dillard of Jenks, Okla., running back/return specialist Leon Jackson of Pasco, Wash., and placekicker Jordan Congdon of St. Augustine in San Diego. Lucky and Dillard were preseason All-America picks by *Street & Smith's*.

The Huskers also went to Florida to recruit quarterback Harrison Beck from Countryside



Ryan Reynolds  
LB, Oklahoma



Kevin Grady  
RB, Michigan



DeSean Jackson  
WR, California

High in Clearwater. The top in-state recruit was tight end/defensive end Zach Potter from state Class A champion Creighton Prep of Omaha.

**6. Michigan:** The Wolverines had the top-rated Big Ten recruiting class with 23 signees that included seven Top 100 prospects. Michigan landed its top three in-state targets in record-setting running back Kevin Grady of East Grand Rapids, defensive lineman Terrance Taylor from the state's top-ranked team, Muskegon, and defensive back Antonio Bass from Jackson.

The Wolverines also received grant signatures from offensive linemen Marques Slocum of West Catholic in Philadelphia, Pa., Justin Schifano of Schroeder in Webster, N.Y., and Cory Zirbel of Murray, Ky.; defensive lineman James McKinney from Central in Louisville; wide receiver Marion Manningham of Harding in Warren, Ohio; and defensive back Brandon Harrison of Chaminade in Dayton, Ohio.

Grady, Taylor, Slocum and Manningham were preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America choices.

**7. California:** The Bears, like No. 1 Florida State, moved up the charts with a 24-player Signing Day bonanza that included several touted junior-college prospects and blue-chip wide receiver DeSean Jackson from Poly High in Long Beach. Jackson opted for Cal over USC, which probably would have ranked higher than No. 3 with Jackson in the fold.

Besides Jackson, the other Top 100 high school recruit was offensive lineman Kevin Bemoli from Mission Viejo, Calif., who decommitted from an early verbal to Ohio State.

The junior-college signees make this class a Top 10 group. They include a trio from the City College of San Francisco—quarterback Jacob Ayoob,

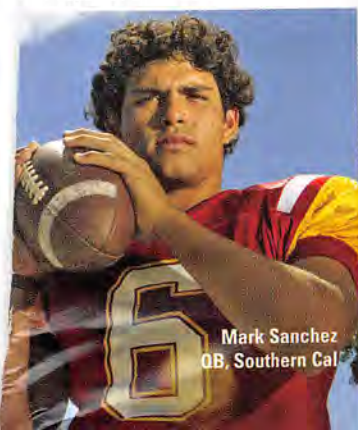
linebacker Desmond Bishop and wide receiver Lavelle Hawkins, plus linebacker Mickey Pimentel from Pima Community College in Arizona. Pimentel had earlier given a verbal to Arizona State. Hawkins committed in 2004 to LSU before going the juco route.

**8. Georgia:** The Bulldogs added only 19 recruits but filled their needs at most positions. The most touted signees were defensive backs C.J. Byrd of North Augusta, S.C., and Bryan Evans from White High in Jacksonville, Fla., plus defensive lineman Kade Weston of Red Bank (N.J.) Regional and the record-setting passing combination from Independence High in Charlotte, N.C.—quarterback Joe Cox and wide receiver Mohammed Massaquoi, a preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America choice.

**9. Miami:** The Hurricanes picked up only 17 recruits, but three were preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America honorees and Top 100 recruits. They were safety Kenneth Phillips from Carol City in Miami, probably the top in-state prospect, and two from Texas: offensive lineman Reginald Youngblood from Washington High in Houston and tight end Dajoleon Farr from North Shore in the Houston suburb of Galena Park.

The other top in-state signees were linebackers Spencer Adkins from Naples and Demetri Stewart from Northeast in Oakland Park.

**10. Texas A&M:** The Aggies landed 25 prospects, including the No. 1 ranked tight end in Martellus Bennett from Taylor High in Alief, Texas. Four other in-state recruits could make early names for themselves: fullback Jorvorski Lane and defensive back Alton Dixon from Lufkin, plus defensive tackle Vince Williams from Carter High in Dallas and punter Justin Brantly from Sealy.



Mark Sanchez  
QB, Southern Cal



# Street & Smith's

# 2005 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

HALF OF THE PLAYERS ON OUR 24TH ANNUAL HONOR ROLL OF PREP FOOTBALL STARS HAIL FROM THREE STATES—CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA AND TEXAS.

By Doug Huff

The power states of California, Florida and Texas continue to lead the way on the 24th annual *Street & Smith's* High School All-America Football Team.

Half of the 50-player selections hail from three of the 21 states represented on the preseason honor roll.

California leads the way with 10 choices. Texas has nine and six are from Florida.

One school has two choices, Mission Viejo, Calif., which went 14-0 last season and finished the season ranked No. 2 nationally by *Student Sports* magazine.

Among the honorees from those states are four of the eight rising seniors among the Top 50 who had committed to college scholarship offers by early spring.

The University of Texas received commitments from three honored in-state prospects: running back Emmanuel Moody of Coppell, defensive end Eddie Jones of Kilgore and linebacker Sergio Kindle of Wilson High in Dallas.

UCLA was the early choice for Top 50 pick Walter Watts, an offensive lineman from Los Banos, Calif.

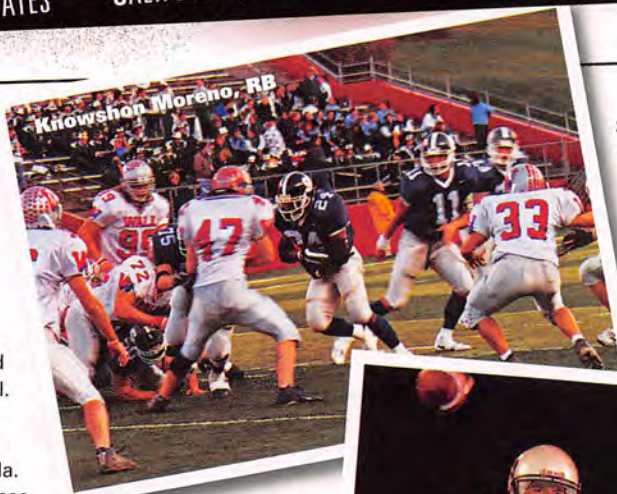
The other early verbals were given by quarterback Zach Frazer of Mechanicsburg, Pa., to Notre Dame; running back Chris Wells of Garfield High in Akron, Ohio, to Ohio State; offensive lineman Jacques McClendon of the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn., to the University of Tennessee; and linebacker Brandon Graham of Crockett High in Detroit, to the University of Michigan.

Here's a position-by-position breakdown of *Street & Smith's* Top 50 selections:

## QUARTERBACKS

Texas and Pennsylvania are home to four of the seven cited signal-callers.

The touted Lone Star State quarterbacks are Jevan Snead of Stephenville and Matt Stafford of Highland Park in Dallas. Last season, Snead completed 181 of 304 passes for 3,025 yards and 29 touchdowns in 11 games. Stafford, in 10 games as a junior, passed for 1,763 yards and 18 TDs and ran for four scores. As a sophomore,



Knowshon Moreno, RB



Mitch Mustain, QB

Stafford opened eyes by passing for 3,160 yards and 38 TDs and rushing for seven scores in 15 games.

Frazer and Pat Devlin of Downingtown East High in Exton, Pa., both earned first-team all-state honors in different classes last season. Frazer, the Fighting Irish recruit and Class 3A all-stater, set a state single-season record of 3,700 passing yards while completing 285 of 440 aerials for 27 TDs in 13 games.

Devlin, the Class 4A all-stater, enters his final season with 5,364 career passing yards and 51 TDs. Last season, he was 147-of-231 for 2,237 yards and 21 scores. He also rushed for 357 yards and 10 TDs.

Florida's most prolific single-season passer returns for his final year. Tim Tebow of Nease High in Ponte Vedra set the state standard of 4,286 aerial yards last season while accounting for 5,572 total offense yards and 70 TDs.

The other two quarterback honorees will be directing teams seeking state and national recognition this season after playing in 13 games as juniors.

Mitch Mustain pulls the trigger at Springdale, Ark., while Demetrius Jones is the field general at Morgan Park High in Chicago. Mustain completed 139 of 222

passes for 2,169 yards and 20 TDs. He also rushed 70 times for 333 yards and 14 scores. Jones passed for 2,300 yards and 23 TDs, while rushing for 1,100 yards and 16 scores.



## RUNNING BACKS

Two players who earned national awards from EA Sports as the best players in their class headline the 10 honored running back selections.

Last season, New Jersey's Knowshon Moreno of Middletown South was the national Junior-of-the-Year honoree. Two years ago, LeSean McCoy of Bishop McDevitt in Harrisburg, Pa., was the national Sophomore of the Year.

Moreno has led South to back-to-back unbeaten seasons and 24 straight wins and is poised to shatter all-time state records for touchdowns and points. He enters his final season with 96 TDs and



84 points, and is eyeing the state marks of 101 TDs and 656 points. He also has 529 career rushing yards—the state record is 6,720. Last season, he rushed 18 times for 2,030 yards and scored 40 TDs, including three on returns. In one game, Moreno rushed 24 times for 420 yards and seven scores.

McCoy was the Pennsylvania Class 3A Player of the Year last season when he rushed for 2,800 yards and 40 touchdowns. In a three-game state playoff run, he gained 1,100 yards and scored 16 TDs. As a sophomore, the two-time all-stater rushed for 2,561 yards and 28 TDs.

The two most touted running backs in Texas are Moody and Jamaal Evans of Irving. Moody rushed for 1,319 yards and 12 TDs and landed two pass-reception scores as a junior. Evans has rushed 663 times for 4,586 yards and 54 TDs the last two seasons. As a junior, he gained 2,133 yards and scored 25 TDs on 276 carries.

Ohio's top prospect is Wells. The Buckeye recruit carried 212 times for 1,930 yards and 20 TDs while also landing 10 passes for 148 yards and a score.

Florida's most touted running back has a familiar name. Javaris James of state Class 2A champion Immokalee is a nephew of Indianapolis Colts star Edgerrin James. The high school senior has rushed for 2,800 career yards, including 1,650 yards and 25 TDs last season.

In Nevada, Eric Jordan has led Las Vegas High to two straight state runner-up finishes and all-state honors. He rushed 348 times for 2,871 yards and 36 TDs in 15 games last season.

California is deep in rushing talent this season. The top trio could be three all-staters in fullback Chane Moline of Mission Viejo, Stafon Johnson of Dorsey High in Los Angeles and Tracy Slocum of East High in Clovis. Moline was the *Cal-Hi Sports* magazine Junior of the Year after rushing for 1,842 yards and 36 TDs for the 14-0 team that finished the year ranked No. 2 nationally.

## UTILITY PLAYERS

A versatile California athlete and two multipurpose Florida athletes are the utility choices on this team.

Running back/safety C.J. Gable of Sylmar, Calif., is attracting widespread recruiting attention after rushing for 2,023 yards and 23 TDs and landing 14 passes for 230 yards and a score last season. He also charted 81 tackles and had four interceptions on defense.

Wide receiver/defensive back Brandon Heath of Palm Beach Lakes High in West Palm Beach was a Florida Class 6A all-state honoree last season when he notched 10 tackles for loss and returned one of three interceptions for a TD. He also led his team in pass receptions for two years.

Antonio Wilson of Mainland High in Daytona Beach was a threat at wide receiver and kick returner last season. The track sprinter averaged 40 yards on kickoff runbacks.



Percy Harvin, WR

Corey Cortez, DL



## WIDE RECEIVERS

Virginia's top player led his Landstown team in Virginia Beach to a 14-0 record and state Class 3A title last season in only the school's fourth season.

Versatile Percy Harvin landed 58 passes for 986 yards and 17 TDs, rushed for 690 yards and nine scores, while adding six TDs on returns. In the state title game, he accounted for 476 all-purpose yards with four touchdowns and three interceptions. In two seasons, he has 97 catches for 1,612 yards and 28 scores.

The nation's leading receiver last season returns to set more records. South Carolina all-state pick Marckus Boswell caught 131 passes, one off the national record, for 2,091 yards and 25 TDs last season, while rushing seven times for 49 yards and three scores. He has 229 career catches with one season left.

California is home for David Ausberry of Lemoore High. The rangy receiver scored 12 TDs last season, while landing 35 passes for 800 yards and rushing 20 times for 400 yards. He's scored 22 TDs while landing 70 passes for 1,550 yards in his career.



## TIGHT ENDS

The second honoree from Mission Viejo is tight end Konrad Reuland, a 6-foot-6, 240-pounder who's attracting widespread recruiting attention. The other honoree is two-sport Oklahoma standout Jermaine Gresham of Ardmore. The 6-foot-7, 230-pounder is also a touted basketball performer.



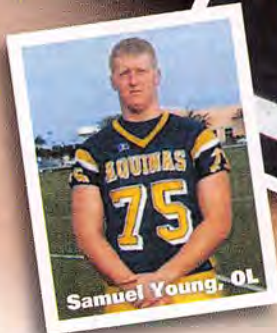
## KICKER

The only California junior on the *Cal-Hi Sports* magazine first-team all-state selections was placekicker Kai Forbath of Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks. He set a state record of 130 points with near-perfect boots: 19 of 21 field goals and all 73 conversion kicks. His longest field goal was 52 yards.



## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The top-rated prospects in Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee are 300-pound-plus all-state offensive blockers—Andre Smith of Huffman High in Birmingham, Ala., Carl Johnson of Southern High in Durham, N.C., and McClendon.



Samuel Young, OL

Smith (6-5, 305), who impressed at off-season camps, charted 90 pancake blocks last year while grading out at 93-percent blocking efficiency. Johnson (6-6, 340) led his team to the state Class 3A semifinals and recorded 97 pancake blocks in 14 games. McClendon (6-4, 325) was a dominating player and the first player to commit to his home-state school.

Other honored blockers include massive Curtis Bailey (6-7, 355) of Carter High in Dallas; Justin Boren (6-4, 295) of North High in Pickerington, Ohio; Cory Brandon (6-7, 260) of Corsicana, Texas; Samuel Young (6-6, 285) of St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and UCLA recruit Watts.



## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

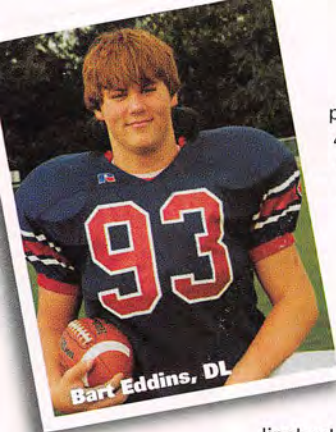
The defensive front of the Top 50 is anchored by five stoppers from five states. University of Texas recruit Jones could be the Lone Star State's top-rated prospect.

Kentucky's top overall prospect is all-stater Micah Johnson from Fort Campbell. Last season, he compiled a remarkable 174 tackles. When asked to run the ball on offense, he accounted for 1,200 yards.

Corey Cortez was not only a unanimous all-state choice as a junior in Wisconsin but was selected the state's Defensive Player of the Year. The West Allis Central High athlete was credited with 74 tackles, including nine for losses, with eight sacks in 12 games.

In Alabama, Bart Eddins of Trinity Presbyterian High in Montgomery has





Bart Eddins, DL

posted 31 tackles for loss in 40 career starts. The all-stater had 121 tackles in 10 games as a junior.

Jamie Cumbie of Morris, Ill., is receiving widespread recruiting attention after a productive junior season.



## LINEBACKERS

Georgia's top prospect this season could be

linebacker Marcus Ball of Stephenson

High in Stone Mountain. Ball earned all-state honors as a junior when he was credited with 120 tackles, including seven sacks.

Two defenders from Dallas are among the nation's best. University of Texas recruit Kindle is a four-year performer out of Wilson High who doubles as a running back. Skyline High's Michael Morgan posted big numbers last season: 98 tackles, 18 sacks, seven forced fumbles and a touchdown on a blocked punt.

Allen Bradford of Colton, Calif., followed up his junior all-state season with impressive showings in camp evaluations and is arguably the top 'backer on the West Coast.

The top prospects in Michigan and Colorado play linebacker, including University of Michigan recruit Brandon Graham. The all-stater had 114 tackles and 20 sacks last season. Lamar Houston plays several positions on both sides of the ball at Doherty High in Colorado Springs. On defense, he had 102 tackles, including 16 for losses. On offense, the 260-pounder rushed for 862 yards and 15 touchdowns.



## DEFENSIVE BACKS

College scouts and recruiters are familiar with The Hun School in Princeton, N.J. That's where Myron Rolle, rated by some observers as the nation's No. 1 overall prospect, excels as a two-way back. New Jersey's Prep School Defensive Player of the Year posted impressive numbers as a junior. He was credited with 83 tackles, including 19 for losses, with six sacks and four pass interceptions. On offense, he rushed 141 times for 1,501 yards and 16 touchdowns.

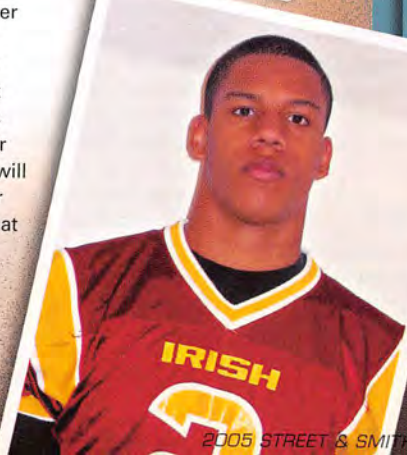
The "Best-in-the-West" tag might be placed on Taylor Mays of O'Dea High in Seattle. Last year, he had 89 tackles, returned one of five interceptions for a score and returned two punts for TDs. As a wide receiver, he caught 25 passes for 514 yards and seven TDs.

In California, Darian Hagan Jr. of Crenshaw High in Los Angeles intercepted 15 passes last season, including three in a game on two occasions.

Two standouts from the Southeast round out the secondary—Prince Miller of Byrnes High in Duncan, S.C., and Jamar Hornsby

of Sandalwood High in Jacksonville, Fla. Miller helped his team to a 13-1 record and third straight state title last season with five pass interceptions and four return TDs. Hornsby will be a four-year regular in the secondary and at wide receiver.

Taylor Mays, DB



# TOP 50

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

### QUARTERBACKS

Pat Devlin	6-4	210	Downingtown	E. Exton, PA
Zach Frazer	6-5	220	Mechanicsburg	Mechanicsburg, PA
Demetrius Jones	6-3	190	Morgan Park	Chicago, IL
Mitch Mustain	6-3	205	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Jevan Snead	6-4	205	Stephenville	Stephenville, TX
Matt Stafford	6-2	200	Highland Park	Dallas, TX
Tim Tebow	6-3	220	Nease	Ponte Vedra, FL

### RUNNING BACKS

Jamaal Evans	5-8	185	Irving	Irving, TX
Eric Jordan	5-10	170	Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV
Javarris James	6-1	205	Immokalee	Immokalee, FL
Stafon Johnson	6-0	190	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA
LeSean McCoy	5-10	195	Bishop McDevitt	Harrisburg, PA
Chane Moline	6-1	230	Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo, CA
Emmanuel Moody	6-0	200	Coppell	Coppell, TX
Knowshon Moreno	5-11	205	Middletown So.	Middletown, NJ
Tracy Slocum	5-10	180	Clovis East	Clovis, CA
Chris Wells	6-1	230	Garfield	Akron, OH

### UTILITY PLAYERS

C.J. Gable	6-1	190	Sylmar	Sylmar, CA
Brandon Heath	6-2	185	P. Beach Lakes	W. Palm Beach, FL
Antonio Wilson	6-1	180	Mainland	Daytona Beach, FL

### WIDE RECEIVERS

David Ausberry	6-5	215	Lemoore	Lemoore, CA
Marckus Boswell	6-0	160	Greenville	Greenville, SC
Percy Harvin	6-1	190	Landstown	Virginia Beach, VA

### TIGHT ENDS

Jermaine Gresham	6-7	230	Ardmore	Ardmore, OK
Konrad Reuland	6-6	240	Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo, CA

### KICKERS

Kai Forbath	6-0	175	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA
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### OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Curtis Bailey	6-7	355	Carter	Dallas, TX
Justin Boren	6-4	295	North	Pickerington, OH
Cory Brandon	6-7	260	Corsicana	Corsicana, TX
Carl Johnson	6-6	325	Southern	Durham, NC
Jacques McClendon	6-4	325	Baylor School	Chattanooga, TN
Andre Smith	6-5	305	Huffman	Birmingham, AL
Walter Watts	6-3	275	Los Banos	Los Banos, CA
Samuel Young	6-6	285	St. T. Aquinas	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

Corey Cortez	6-0	270	Central	West Allis, WI
Jamie Cumbie	6-7	255	Morris	Morris, IL
Bart Eddins	6-5	260	Trinity	Montgomery, AL
Micah Johnson	6-2	270	Ft. Campbell	Ft. Campbell, KY
Eddie Jones	6-3	225	Kilgore	Kilgore, TX

### LINEBACKERS

Marcus Ball	6-0	200	Stephenson	Stone Mountain, GA
Allen Bradford	5-11	220	Colton	Colton, CA
Brandon Graham	6-2	235	Crockett	Detroit, MI
Lamar Houston	6-4	260	Doherty	Col. Springs, CO
Sergio Kindle	6-4	225	Wilson	Dallas, TX
Michael Morgan	6-3	195	Skyline	Dallas, TX

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

Darian Hagan Jr.	6-1	175	Crenshaw	Los Angeles, CA
Jamar Hornsby	6-3	195	Sandalwood	Jacksonville, FL
Taylor Mays	6-3	220	O'Dea	Seattle, WA
Prince Miller	5-10	180	Byrnes	Duncan, SC
Myron Rolle	6-2	215	Hun School	Princeton, NJ



# OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH

## QUARTERBACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Austin Arnaud	Ames	Ames, IA
Chase Brunick	Desert Edge	Goodyear, AZ
Alex Cate	Cottonwood	Cottonwood, UT
Neil Caudle	Spain Park	Hoover, AL
Carson Coffman	Raymore-Peculiar	Peculiar, MO
Michael Coughlin	Mira Mesa	San Diego, CA
Dexter Davidson	N. Broward Prep	Coconut Creek, FL
Nate Davis	Bellaire	Bellaire, OH
Connor Dixon	South Park	Library, PA
Nathan Enderle	North Platte	North Platte, NE
Jarred Fayson	Hillsborough	Tampa, FL
Emanuel Francis	Godby	Tallahassee, FL
Josh Freeman	Grandview	Grandview, MO
Brennan Glass	South	Springfield, OH
Clark Harrell	Ennis	Ennis, TX
Sherrod Harris	Bowie	Arlington, TX
Mike Hartline	GlenOak	Canton, OH
Michael Herrick	Valencia	Valencia, CA
Tyler Huether	Penn-Trafford	Harrison City, PA
Jeff Jansen	Diamond Bar	Diamond Bar, CA
Rudy Kirbus	St. Ignatius	Cleveland, OH
Thaddeus Lewis	Miami Lakes	Hialeah, FL
Jeff Lindsay	L'Anse Creuse No.	Macomb, MI
Alex Loukas	Deerfield	Deerfield, IL
Greg McElroy	Carroll	Southlake, TX
Eddie McGee	Woodson	Washington, DC
Brett Morris	Central	Hinsdale, IL
Chris Paul-Etienne	Edison	Miami, FL
Christian Ponder	Heritage	Colleyville, TX
Taylor Potts	Abilene	Abilene, TX
Jeremy Ricker	Bishop McDevitt	Harrisburg, PA
Miles Schlichter	Miami Trace	Wash. C.H., OH
Daniel Stegall	Greenwood	Greenwood, AR
Nick Stephens	Flower Mound	Flower Mound, TX
Mike Verika	Monsignor Bonner	Drexel Hill, PA
Adam Weber	Mounds View	Arden Hills, MN
Isiah Williams	Vocational	Chicago, IL
John Witte	Mukwonago	Mukwonago, WI

## RUNNING BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Josh Adams	Cary	Cary, NC
James Aldridge	Merrillville	Merrillville, IN
Anthony Allen	Jesuit	Tampa, FL
Armando Allen	Miami Lakes	Hialeah, FL
Tim Allen	East Lyme	East Lyme, CT
Danielle Babb	Franklin	Franklin, VA
Baron Batch	Midland	Midland, TX
Joe Benson	Joliet Catholic	Joliet, IL
Glyndon Bolasky	Sabino	Tucson, AZ
Chris Brown	Alexandria	Alexandria, LA
Ahmad Burks	Baldwinsville	Baldwinsville, NY
Lucas Caparelli	Robinson	Fairfax, VA
Latreal Cooper	Cuero	Cuero, TX
Ricky Crider	Reitz	Evansville, IN
Josh Culbertson	Nitro	Nitro, WV
Derrick Davis	Meridian	Meridian, MS
Cordera Eason	Meridian	Meridian, MS
Lambert Edwards	South Dade	Homestead, FL
Anthony Elzy	J. F. Kennedy	Warren, OH
Cody Englebrecht	Hamilton	Chandler, AZ
Ryan Fiscaro	Creighton Prep	Omaha, NE
Toby Gerhart	Norco	Norco, CA
Terry Grant	Lumberton	Lumberton, MS
Christen Haywood	Davidson	Hilliard, OH
Anthony Henderso	Miami Lakes	Hialeah, FL
Tyler Henderson	Lower Burrell	Lower Burrell, PA
Roderick Hill	Jupiter	Jupiter, FL
Trent Hines	Lee	Midland, TX
Jamere Holland	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Tim House	Centennial	Peoria, AZ
Brandon James	St. Augustine	St. Augustine, FL
Skylar Jensen	Mead	Spokane, WA
Josh Johnson	Ponca City	Ponca City, OK
Courtney Jones	Pensacola	Pensacola, FL
Jay Leal	Westwood	Mesa, AZ
Travis McBride	McKeesport	McKeesport, PA
Princeton McCarty	West Bakersfield	Bakersfield, CA
Vondell McGee	Longview	Longview, TX
Gaston Miller	Riverdale	Murfreesboro, TN
Jamel Miller	Tallmadge	Tallmadge, OH
Lonyae Miller	Kaiser	Fontana, CA
Brandon Minor	Varina	Richmond, VA
Cameron Mobley	Trotwood-Madison	Trotwood, OH
James Montgomery	Cordova	Rancho Cordova, CA
Mitchell Moore	Warren	Warren, IL
Richard Murphy	Rayville	Rayville, LA
DeMarco Murray	Bishop Gorman	Las Vegas, NV
Leon Patten	White	Dallas, TX
Brant Quick	Berwick	Berwick, PA
Alexander Robinson	De La Salle	Minneapolis, MN
Derke Robinson	Hebron	Carrollton, TX
Evan Royster	Westfield	Chantilly, VA
Charles Scott	Jonesboro-Hodge	Jonesboro, LA
Jake Sharp	Central	Salina, KS
Brandon Shimits	Solon	Solon, OH
Jaius Singleton	East St. Louis	East St. Louis, IL
Luke Schmidt	Jasper	Jasper, IN
C. J. Spiller	Union County	Lake Butler, FL
Ben Tate	Snow Hill	Snow Hill, MD
Ricky Thenarse	Jordan	Los Angeles, CA
Dwayne Thomas	Tombstone	Tombstone, AZ
Jamar Wall	Plainview	Plainview, TX
Chevron Walker	Riverdale	Fort Myers, FL
Garry Warren	Elizabeth	Elizabeth, NJ
Lynn Williams	Lowndes County	Valdosta, GA
Mon Williams	Horn	Mesquite, TX
Corey Young	Millard North	Omaha, NE



## UTILITY PLAYERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Max Anderson	Morgantown	Morgantown, WV
Aaron Cawfield	Hickman	Columbia, MO
Chandler Clemons	Oak Ridge	El Dorado Hills, CA
Deonte Cobbs	Jefferson Forest	Forest, VA
Riley Cooper	Central Catholic	Clearwater, FL
Eli Crawford	Lee	Staunton, VA
Quentin Davis	Cardinal Ritter	St. Louis, MO
Dorin Dickerson	West Allegheny	Imperial, PA
Kris Durham	Calhoun	Calhoun, GA
Pierre Fleurinor	Wharton	Wharton, TX
Devon Freeman	Niceville	Niceville, FL

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Barry Gallup Jr.	Belmont Hill	Wellesley, MA
Garrett Green	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA
Mike Hague	Brighton	Salt Lake City, UT
Matt Harper	Lowndes County	Valdosta, GA
Akeem Hebron	Good Counsel	Wheaton, MD
Davell Jackson	Senatobia	Senatobia, MS
Tavorris Jolly	Shelby	Shelby, NC
Brad Kanuch	Westmont-Hilltop	Johnstown, PA
Orie Lemon	Yates	Houston, TX
David Lighty	VA-St. Joseph	Cleveland, OH
Jake Locker	Ferndale	Ferndale, WA
Dustin Lindsey	Alcoa	Alcoa, TN
Trevor Marcum	Wayne County	Wayne, WV
Billy McKeon	Joliet Catholic	Joliet, IL
Riley Nelson	Logan	Logan, UT
Munir Prince	DeSmet	St. Louis, MO
Keith Rosenberg	Bellevue	Bellevue, WA
Nico Scott	E. Roosevelt	Greenbelt, MD
Tyler Scruggs	South Park	Library, PA
Marcus Sims	N. Fla. Christian	Tallahassee, FL
Raymond Small	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Jeff Smith	Silver Lake	Kingston, MA
Phillip Strozier	Rockhurst	Kansas City, MO
Van Stumon	North Little Rock	N. Little Rock, AR
Dexter Taylor	Warren Central	Indianapolis, IN
A. J. Wallace	McDonough	Pomfret, MD
Norman Whitley	Richmond Senior	Rockingham, NC
Jermaine Williams	Maryvale	Phoenix, AZ

## WIDE RECEIVERS

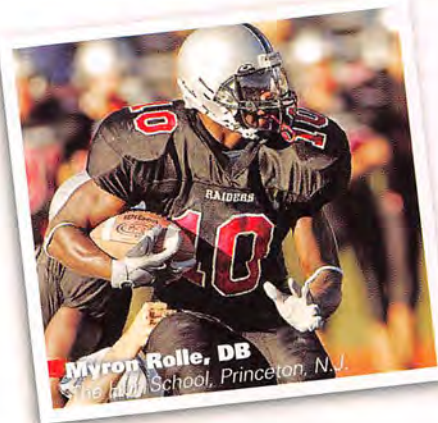
	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Terrence Austin	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Andrey Baskin	Woodrow Wilson	Camden, NJ
Chris Bell	Granby	Norfolk, VA
Sheldon Bell	City College	Baltimore, MD
Niles Brinkley	Beaumont	St. Louis, MO
Tim Brown	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Brandon Caleb	Fork Union Military	Fork Union, VA
Adrian Cannon	Avondale	Auburn Hills, MI
Josh Chichester	Lakota West	West Chester, OH
Ricky Dixon	East St. John	Reserve, LA
Ryan Ellis	Nease	Ponte Vedra, FL
Jake Fetzer	Beaverton	Beaverton, OR
Carl Fisher	Bolingbrook	Bolingbrook, IL
Luke Fowler	R. A. Long	Longview, WA
Chris Fulmer	Nitro	Nitro, WV
Lance Francis	Charlotte	Punta Gorda, FL
Kevin Hagans	Franklin	Franklin, WI
Quintin Hancock	St. Augustine	St. Augustine, FL
Vidal Hazelton	Moore Catholic	Staten Island, NY
Jamere Holland	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA
Richard Jackson	East Ridge	Clermont, FL
McKay Jacobson	Carroll	Southlake, TX
Chris James	Morgan Park	Chicago, IL
Domonique Johnson	Valley View	Moreno Valley, CA
Jerrold Johnson	Humble	Humble, TX
Anthony Jones	Rickards	Tallahassee, FL
Daven Jones	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Lance Kendrick	King	Milwaukee, WI
Crawford Kilpatrick	North Gwinnett	Suwanee, GA
Jerel Leak	Trotwood-Madison	Trotwood, OH
Terry Levy	Kosciusko	Kosciusko, MS
Kendrick Lewis	Walker	New Orleans, LA
John Maddox	West Catholic	Philadelphia, PA
Josh Marshall	James Martin	Arlington, TX
Damon McDaniel	Landstown	Virginia Beach, VA
Chris Mitchell	John Ehret	Marrero, LA
Quintin Patilla	Carman-Ainsworth	Flint, MI
Travon Patterson	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Phillip Payne	South Garland	Garland, TX
Tamarcus Porter	Pahokee	Pahokee, FL



	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Xavier Rambo	Wilmer-Hutchins	Dallas, TX
Austin Raught	Fremont	Ogden, UT
Clint Renfro	Carroll	Southlake, TX
Patrick Robinson	South Miami	Miami, FL
Derrick Russell	Omaha Central	Omaha, NE
Stephen Schwicke	Bellport	Bellport, NY
Chris Slaughter	Peach County	Fort Valley, GA
Adron Tennell	Irving	Irving, TX
Latarrus Thomas	New Smyrna Bch.	N. Smyrna Bch., FL
Brent Vinson	Phoebe	Hampton, VA
Jonathan Walker	Newnan	Newnan, GA
Montrae Webber	Hearne	Hearne, TX
Jared White	Williamson	Mobile, AL
Marcus Wilkins	McArthur	Decatur, IL
Damian Williams	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Justin Williams	Charlton County	Folkston, GA
Warren Wilson	New Hampton Prep	New Hampton, NH
Terrell Zachery	Wadley	Wadley, AL

## TIGHT ENDS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Andrew Berryman	Salpointe	Tucson, AZ
Marcus Brown	DeMatha	Hyattsville, MD
Bart Coslet	Howell Central	St. Charles, MO
George Johnson	Glassboro	Glassboro, NJ
Matthew Mauldin	Seminary	Seminary, MS
Anthony McCoy	Bullard	Fresno, CA
Jeff Minemyer	Bishop Carroll	Ebensburg, PA
Britt Mitchell	Kilgore	Kilgore, TX
Paddy Mullen	DeSmet	St. Louis, MO
Chris Neild	Stroudsburg	Stroudsburg, PA
Caz Piurowski	Land O' Lakes	Land O' Lakes, FL
Jack Shields	Boston College	Boston, MA
Lee Smith	Powell	Knoxville, TN
Dominique Walker	Christiana	Newark, DE
Brandon Warren	Alcoa	Alcoa, TN



Myron Rolle, DB  
The Hill School, Princeton, N.J.

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Matt Allen	Klein Collins	Spring, TX
Sean Allen	James Hunt	Wilson, NC
Justin Anderson	Irwin County	Ocala, GA
Pierre Andrews	Independence	Charlotte, NC
Matt Barber	Damascus	Damascus, MD
Cruz Barrett	Mainland	Daytona Beach, FL
Tim Barnes	N.W. Pettis Co.	Hughesville, MO
Chase Beeler	Jenks	Jenks, OK
Brandon Bennett	Bishop Amat	La Puente, CA
Shawn Bernacky	D. Grove South	Downers Grove, IL
Jack Brady	Maine South	Park Ridge, IL
Aaron Brown	Princeton	Cincinnati, OH
Jake Bscherer	Sturgeon Bay	Sturgeon Bay, WI

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Cole Bunner	Mt. Michael	Elkhorn, NE
Buck Burnette	Wimberley	Wimberley, TX
Drew Chasney	Horn	Mesquite, TX
Scott Corson	Johnstown	Johnstown, PA
Mike Costanzo	Monte Vista	Danville, CA
Josh Davis	Tylertown	Tylertown, MS
Jake Dean	Paraclete	Lancaster, CA
Perry Dorestein	Plainfield	Plainfield, IL
Josh Evans	Fayetteville	Fayetteville, WV
Brandon Frey	Montini	Lombard, IL
Sione Fua	Crespi	Encino, CA
Romney Fuga	Edison	Huntington Bch., CA
Clifton Geathers	Carver's Bay	Georgetown, SC
Davarin Gerald	Scotlandville	Scotlandville, LA
Chris Hannah	Gateway	Monroeville, PA
Braden Hansen	Alta	Sandy, UT
Ben Harden	Perry	Perry, GA
Jim Hart	Pocahontas	Pocahontas, AR
Joe Hawley	Esperanza	Anaheim, CA
Jovan Hayes	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA
Corey Hobbs	Oviedo	Oviedo, FL
Jarrod Holt	Clearwater	Clearwater, FL
Curt Hornback	Westmoore	Oklahoma City, OK
Mark Jackson	Brookhaven	Columbus, OH
Ramon Johnson	Morgan Park	Chicago, IL
D.J. Jones	Central	Omaha, NE
Brandon Jordan	Merrillville	Merrillville, IN
Andy Keane	Palm Springs	Palm Springs, CA
James Kilgore	Dobyns-Bennett	Kingsport, TN
Mike Kush	Johnstown	Johnstown, PA
John Kyed	Boulder	Boulder, CO
Isaac Leatiota	Wilcox	Santa Clara, CA
Antonio Logan-El	Forestville	Forestville, MD
Demitri Lott	Marshall	Missouri City, TX
Jeff Maddux	Monroe	Monroe, MI
Kevin McCaskill	Godby	Tallahassee, FL
Chris Meenan	Wooster	Wooster, OH
John Miller	Woodland	Cartersville, GA
Joe Munguia	Pinnacle	Phoenix, AZ
Steve Moore	Jersey Village	Houston, TX
Cory Murry	Indian River	Frankford, DE
Jason Onyebuagu	Warren Central	Indianapolis, IN
Timi Oshinowo	Neuqua Valley	Naperville, IL
Jeff Owens	T. Roosevelt	Washington, DC
Lucas Patterson	King	Kingsville, TX
Andrew Phillips	Georgetown Prep	Rockville, MD
Clayton Powell	Palmetto	Palmetto, FL
Craig Rau	Ravenna	Ravenna, MI
Lon Roberts	Kilgore	Kilgore, TX
Daron Rose	Jefferson	Tampa, FL
Teran Sanders	Southeast	Bradenton, FL
Stephen Schilling	Bellevue	Bellevue, WA
Sean Sheller	Walnut	Walnut, CA
Connor Smith	Colerain	Cincinnati, OH
Adam Smotherman	Smyrna	Smyrna, TN
Alex Stadler	Liberty	Beaumont, VA
Alex Stonehouse	Central	West Allis, WI
Doug Stroud	Evangel	Shreveport, LA
Ian Syomette	St. Pius	Houston, TX
Sonny Tevaga	Dominguez	Compton, CA
Ryan Tolar	Pasco	Pasco, WA
James Truesdale	Anacostia	Washington, DC
Mike Ward	St. John's	Washington, DC
Brandon Washington	Cedar Hill	Cedar Hill, TX
Roy Watts	Worthing	Houston, TX
Bartley Webb	Springdale	Springdale, AR
J'Marcus Webb	North Mesquite	Mesquite, TX
Dan Wenger	St. Thomas Aquinas	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Zek Wiley	Orem	Orem, UT
Trent Williams	Longview	Longview, TX

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Craig Wilson	Thornton	Harvey, IL
Kevin Young	Central Catholic	Clearwater, FL
Cameron Zipp	Fontainebleau	Mandeville, LA

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Jason Adjepung	Carteret	Carteret, NJ
Carlos Adrane	East Side	Newark, NJ
Conan Amituanai	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Ben Anderson	South	Aiken, SC
Chris Arthurs	Wheaton South	Wheaton, IL
Jason Brace	Spanaway Lake	Spanaway Lake, WA
Adrian Clayborn	Webster Groves	Webster Groves, MO
Ricardo Crawford	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA
Wayne Daniels	Kilgore	Kilgore, TX
Charles Deas	Dillard	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Alex Dekle	Statesboro	Statesboro, GA
Cameron Elisara	Ferris	Spokane, WA
Greg Elleby	South Columbus	Tabor City, NC
Brian Ellis	S. Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie, TX
Kenrick Ellis	Leonard	Lake Worth, FL
Maurice Evans	Christ The King	Middle Village, NY
Reggie Gibson	DeMatha	Hyattsville, MD
Thaddeus Gibson	Euclid	Euclid, OH
John Graves	Meadowbrook	Richmond, VA
Raven Gray	Enterprise	Enterprise, AL
Rodney Gnat	Wolfson	Jacksonville, FL
Robert Hall	Hawkinsville	Hawkinsville, GA
Jon Hargis	Red Mountain	Mesa, AZ
Justin Hargrove	Baldwin	Pittsburgh, PA
Audre Henderson	Manual	Louisville, KY
Ricky Henry	Burke	Omaha, NE
Jonathan Hollins	Redemptorist	Baton Rouge, LA
Joseph Jackson	B.T. Washington	Miami, FL
George Johnson	Glassboro	Glassboro, NJ
Cleveland Jones	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA
Richard Jones	La Marque	La Marque, TX
Jason Kates	Bishop McDevitt	Harrisburg, PA
Chris Lewis	Clovis West	Fresno, CA
Lazarus Livingston	Ruston	Ruston, LA
Pryce Macon	Carroll	Corpus Christi, TX
Daniel Mafoe	Carson	Carson, CA
Colin Miller	Centerville	Clifton, VA
Jeff Miller	Westlake	Westlake Village, CA
Gerald McCoy	Southeast	Oklahoma City, OK
Paddy Mullen	DeSmet	St. Louis, MO
Zach Niusulu	Barstow	Barstow, CA
Reggie Odom	Deland	Deland, FL
Jared Odrick	Lebanon	Lebanon, PA
Jamil Paris	Sebastian River	Sebastian, FL
John Paul	Immokalee	Immokalee, FL
Brandon Pete	Millard West	Omaha, NE
Jason Pinkston	Baldwin	Pittsburgh, PA
Kadem Ray	Nashville	Nashville, AR
Leslie Ray	Lee	Midland, TX
John Romero	Salpointe	Tucson, AZ
Robert Rose	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
John Ryan	St. Ignatius	Cleveland, OH
Darius Savage	Morse	San Diego, CA
Jarrod Shaw	Northside	Lafayette, LA
Kyle Sheehan	Grayson	Loganville, GA
Blake Smith	E. Roosevelt	Greenbelt, MD
Gavin Smith	Wakefield	Raleigh, NC
D'Anthony Smith	Pickering	Pickering, LA
Travis Steckbauer	D. C. Everest	Schofield, WI
Milton Talbert	Hattiesburg	Hattiesburg, MS
Phillip Taylor	Gwynn Park	Brandywine, MD
Marcus Tillman	Franklin	Meadville, MS
Matangi Tonga	Aragon	San Mateo, CA
Johnnie Troutman	Pemberton	Pemberton, NJ
Toby Turpin	Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos, CA
Kallen Wade	Withrow	Cincinnati, OH



	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
J. B. Walton	Lackey	Indian Head, MD
Don'tay Ward	Waco	Waco, TX
J.R. Ware	Lee	Staunton, VA
Jeremiah Warren	Bay	Panama City, FL
Chaz Washington	Destrehan	Destrehan, LA
Brandon Wood	Haralson County	Tallapoosa, GA
Al Woods	Elton	Elton, LA

## LINEBACKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Navarro Bowman	Suitland	Suitland, MD
Mario Brown	Greene Central	Snow Hill, NC
Joe Cason	Southeast Polk	Runnells, IA
Blake Collier	Northwest	Justin, TX
Brandon Crow	Comanche	Comanche, OK
Jacob Cutrera	Acadiana	Lafayette, LA
Ryan D'Imperio	Washington Twn.	Sewell, NJ
Dustin Doe	Hamilton County	Jasper, FL
Dustin Earnest	Texas	Texarkana, TX
A.J. Edds	Greenwood	Greenwood, IN
LeBrandon Glover	Pensacola	Pensacola, FL
Kevin Green	North Chicago	North Chicago, IL
Brandon Jackson	Briarcrest	Memphis, TN
Cory Jackson	University	Morgantown, WV
Dustin Jefferson	Kankakee	Kankakee, IL
Darryl Johnson	Centennial	Corona, CA
Jerome Jones	Ursuline	Youngstown, OH
Andre Hatchett	Warren Central	Indianapolis, IN
Akeem Hebron	Good Counsel	Wheaton, MD
Ross Homan	Coldwater	Coldwater, OH
Paul Homer	Millard North	Omaha, NE
Joel Humphrey	Liberty	Youngstown, OH
Jeremiah Hunter	Manheim Central	Manheim, PA
Brandon Jackson	Briarcrest	Memphis, TN
Stevie Johnson	Spotsylvania	Spotsylvania, VA
Jason Kolodziej	Thomas Jefferson	Pittsburgh, PA
Anthony Leonard	McKeesport	McKeesport, PA
Anthony Lewis	Halton City	Halton City, TX
Dan Loheyde	Gateway	Monroeville, PA
Antonio Lowery	Columbus	Miami, FL
Elijah McCall	Bassett	Bassett, VA
James McCluskey	Billerica	Billerica, MA
Tyler McKnight	Maine South	Park Ridge, IL
Jarrell Miller	Highland Springs	Highland Springs, VA
Andre Morales	Liberty	Bethlehem, PA
Mike Morrissey	Stevenson	Chicago, IL
Adrian Moten	Gwynne Park	Brandywine, MD
Nate Nix	Thomas Jefferson	Pittsburgh, PA
Justin Nonu	Oceanside	Oceanside, CA
Brandon Ogletree	McKinney	McKinney, TX
Martel Pope	Southridge	Miami, FL
Dwight Roberson	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Walter Rodney	Armwood	Seffner, FL
Ricky Sapp	Ehrhardt	Bamberg, SC
Tyrine Singleton	Hempstead	Hempstead, NY
Brandon Spikes	Crest	Shelby, NC
Craig Stevens	Lincoln	Tallahassee, FL
Rya Stratis	Manchester	Midlothian, VA
Scott Szpyrka	New Hampton Prep	New Hampton, NH
Ben Terry	Capistrano Valley	Mission Viejo, CA
James Thomas	Ely	Pompano Beach, FL
Demaurier Thompson	White	Dallas, TX
Doug Thompson	Armwood	Seffner, FL
Osahon Tongo	Naperville North	Naperville, IL
Andrew Trowbridge	Warner Christian	Daytona Beach, FL
Tobi Umodu	South Hills	West Covina, CA
Greg Webster	Woodland Hills	Pittsburgh, PA
Donnell Williams	Madison	Houston, TX
Nate Williams	Central Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA
Kion Wilson	Raines	Jacksonville, FL
Andrew Woodard	Ottumwa	Ottumwa, IA
Marcus Yarbrough	Bonita Vista	Chula Vista, CA

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Darin Baldwin	South Dade	Homestead, FL
Deon Beasley	W. Orange Stark	Orange, TX

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Aaron Berry	Bishop McDevitt	Harrisburg, PA
Cody Blevins	Miamisburg	Miamisburg, OH
Greg Bolling	Gateway	Aurora, CO
Aaron Brown	Lower Burrell	Lower Burrell, PA
Steve Brown	Columbus East	Columbus, IN
Mike Callahan	Brophy Prep	Phoenix, AZ
Paul Chaney	University	St. Louis, MO
Jovani Chappel	Trotwood-Madison	Trotwood, OH
Kurt Coleman	Northmont	Clayton, OH
Ronald Cousin	McDonogh	New Orleans, LA
Perrish Cox	University	Waco, TX
Dominique Davenport	Warner Robins	Warner Robins, GA
Andy Davis	Brianwood Christ.	Birmingham, AL
Wesley Davis	Steele Canyon	Spring Valley, CA
Jai Eugene	Destrehan	Destrehan, LA
Devon Ford	Bishop McDevitt	Harrisburg, PA
Deron Fontenot	S. Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie, TX
Dominique Franks	Tulsa Union	Tulsa, OK
Darryl Gamble	Bainbridge	Bainbridge, GA
Jordan Gafford	Kilbourne	Worthington, OH
Jashaad Gaines	Las Vegas	Las Vegas, CA
Jakeem Gregory	Snider	Fort Wayne, IN
Calvin Harrison	Richland Northeast	Columbia, SC
James Henry	Clemens	Schertz, TX
Lance Hewitt	Lufkin	Lufkin, TX
Ryan Hill	Rickards	Tallahassee, FL
Kevin Holloway	Parkway Academy	Miramar, FL
Robert Joseph	Memorial	Port Arthur, TX
Vincent Joseph	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Dan Kreamer	Evangel	Shreveport, LA
DeMorrio Leverett	Auburndale	Auburndale, FL
John Maddux	West Catholic	Philadelphia, PA
Byron Maxwell	Ft. Dorchester	N. Charleston, SC
DeAndre McDaniel	Godby	Tallahassee, FL
Jake Merrill	Gig Harbor	Gig Harbor, WA
Dwayne Priest	Fleming	Roanoke, VA
Jordan Pugh	Plano West	Plano, TX
DeNathan Robinson	Phoebe	Hampton, VA
Patrick Robinson	South Miami	Miami, FL
Lance Smith	Grand Blanc	Grand Blanc, MI
Marcus Udell	Godby	Tallahassee, FL
Josh Van Buren	Terrebonne	Houma, LA
Darrin Walls	Woodland Hills	Pittsburgh, PA
Anthony Webb	Wilmer-Hutchins	Dallas, TX
Alex Whipple	Sheldon	Sheldon, OR
Malcolm Williams	S. Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie, TX
Sharece Wright	Colton	Colton, CA

## KICKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Dustin Abrams	Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos, CA
Andrew Aguila	St. John Bosco	Bellflower, CA
Brad Barnhouse	Independence	Charlotte, NC
Blake Baublits	North	McKinney, TX
Matt Bosher	Jupiter	Jupiter, FL
Eric Buckenmyer	Woodbridge	Woodbridge, VA
Sam Buckman	Minnetonka	Minnetonka, MN
Jim Caldwell	Oxford	Oxford, AL
Dusty Castille	Carencro	Lafayette, LA
Kyle Day	Sahuarita	Sahuarita, AZ
Stefan Demos	Horizon	Scottsdale, AZ
Brock Florio	Buhach Colony	Atwater, CA
Arix Goodman	Cherry Creek	Englewood, CO
Justin Gomes	McDowell	Erie, PA
Hunter Lawrence	Boerne	Boerne, TX
Kevin Ortega	Carroll	Southlake, TX
Kyle Peterson	South Hills	West Covina, CA
Adam Smith	Camp Hill	Camp Hill, PA
Steven Woodward	Jenks	Jenks, OK

# 50 JUNIORS TO WATCH

### ALABAMA

Jared Cooper, OL, East Brewton Neal  
Zach Smith, QB/DB, Blountsville Susan Moore

### ARIZONA

James Brooks, DL, Flagstaff

### ARKANSAS

Kodi Burns, QB, Fort Smith Northside  
Terrance Garrett, LB, Wynne

### CALIFORNIA

Josh Allen, OL, Rancho Cucamonga Los Osos  
Jimmy Clausen, QB, Westlake Vill. Oaks Christian  
Chris Gilippo, LB, Anaheim Servite  
Charles Gatewood, OL, Pomona  
Kenny Rowe, DL, Long Beach Poly  
Malcolm Smith, WR/DB, Woodland Hills Taft  
Marc Tyler, RB, Westlake Village Oaks Christian  
Donovan Warren, DB, Long Beach Poly

### COLORADO

Donnie Reed, WR, Lakewood

### FLORIDA

Noel Devine, RB, North Fort Myers  
Stephen Garcia, QB, Tampa Jefferson  
Daidren Hill, WR, Panama City Rutherford  
Chris Rainey, RB, Lakeland  
Paul Wilson, WR, Lakeland

### GEORGIA

Eric Berry, RB/WR, Fairburn Creekside  
Justin Gainey, RB, Homerville Clinch County  
Caleb King, RB/DB, Lilburn Parkview

### HAWAII

Jeremiah Ostrowski, WR, Honolulu Punahou

### INDIANA

Darren Evans, RB, Indianapolis Warren Central  
Jerimy Finch, DB, Indianapolis Warren Central

### LOUISIANA

Joe McKnight, RB/KR, River Ridge John Curtis

### NEVADA

DeAngelo Jones, RB, Las Vegas Foothill

### NEW JERSEY

Alex Silvestro, DL, Paulsboro

### NEW YORK

Chris Hart, RB, Nedrow Onondaga

### NORTH CAROLINA

Carter Sharpe, RB, Fayetteville Smith  
John Stamper, DB/KR, Clemmons West Forsyth

### OHIO

Chazz Anderson, QB, Pickerington Central  
Frank Edmonds, RB, Lakewood St. Edward's  
Rocco Pentello, QB, Westerville South  
Devon Torrence, RB, Canton South

### OKLAHOMA

Stephen Hoge, PK, Okla. City Putnam City North

### OREGON

Kyle Singler, TE, South Medford

### PENNSYLVANIA

Pat Bostick, QB, Manheim Central  
Josh Marks, DL, Catawissa Southern Columbia  
Chris McGee, DB, Boyertown  
Steve Paskorz, RB/LB, Allison Park Hampton  
Nick Sukay, DB, Greensburg Central Catholic

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Will Korn, QB, Duncan Byrnes

### TEXAS

Patrick Dorsey, LB, Houston Yates  
Michael Dugat, RB, Dayton  
Andre Jones, DL, El Paso Andress  
Alvin Jordan, LB, Dallas Greenhill  
Ryan Mallett, QB, Texarkana Texas

### WASHINGTON

Nate Williams, RB, Seattle Kennedy

### WISCONSIN

John Clay, RB, Racine Park



# 25

# PREP TEAMS TO WATCH

BY DOUG HUFF

(listed alphabetically by states)

## HOOVER, AL (15-0 in '04)

Nine starters return from this unbeaten team that will be seeking a state-record fourth straight Class 6A title and fifth finals berth in six seasons. Key seniors include wide receiver/kick returner Cornelius Williams, third-year offensive tackle Brian Morgan, running backs Chris Graham and Nathaniel Hepburn, defensive back Max Lerner and defensive end Duwan Smith. Touted juniors are defensive lineman Josh Chapman and offensive guard Michael Hayes. The first-year quarterback is junior Ross Wilson, brother of ex-Hoover standout and current University of Alabama QB John Parker Wilson.

## SPRINGDALE, AR (12-1)

The Bulldogs are poised to make some national noise this season after advancing to the state Class 5A semifinals last year while outscoring teams by a 35-point margin. Nine offensive and seven defensive regulars return, including preseason All-America quarterback Mitch Mustain. He passed for 2,169 yards and 20 TDs and rushed for 14 scores as a junior. His favorite receivers are wideouts Damian Williams and Andrew Norman and tight end Ben Cleveland. Matt Clinkscale rushed for 900 yards and 15 TDs last season. Mammoth tackle Bartley Webb (6-7, 290 pounds) anchors the offensive line. The schedule includes defending Louisiana champion Evangel Christian and Oklahoma power Jenks.

## MISSION VIEJO, CA (14-0)

The Diablos ended last season ranked No. 2 in the land and have won 55 of their last 56 games. Eleven starters return—six on offense and five on defense. Replacing *Parade* National Player of the Year Mark Sanchez, a USC recruit, at quarterback will be his backup, R.J. Toman, who passed for 650 yards and six TDs as a junior. Two preseason All-Americans return on offense in fullback Chane Moline and tight end Konrad Reuland. Junior running back Keegan Gogerty is back, along with third-year center Cooper Dodd, offensive guard David Burton and wide receiver Sean Fitzgerald, who's a three-sport athlete. Middle linebacker Matt Harris and cornerbacks Garrett Rubio and Chris Holmsler anchor the defense.

## POLY, LONG BEACH, CA (13-1)

The Jackrabbits are always known for their speed but this year's squad could be the fastest in several years. The 29 returning lettermen from the school's 16th Southern Section title squad include 14 starters, with nine on defense. Key senior returnees are wide receiver Terrence Austin, defensive back/wide receiver Vincent Joseph, running back Troy Guthrie, defensive end/linebacker Jurrey Casey, wide receiver/defensive back Travon Patterson, fullback/linebacker Ryan Smith and offensive lineman Matthias Duran.

## BOLLES, JACKSONVILLE, FL (14-0)

The Bulldogs won a record eighth state crown in Class 3A last season and will compete in 2A this season. Bolles usually reloads and will try for their fourth straight state final berth. Six offensive and four defensive starters return, with last year's backup quarterback, Alex Hepler, running the offense. Running back Shawn Chapas, tackle Cannon Gaskin and junior center Chance Raines return to the lineup. The top tackler last season, linebacker Michael Garcia, and back Donald Manns anchor the defense. Veteran coach Corky Rogers is Florida's all-time winningest mentor.

## B.T. WASHINGTON, MIAMI, FL (11-1)

Dade County's top-ranked team should make another serious bid for a state title after advancing to the Class 4A semifinals last season. Washington has several key members back, including athletic quarterback Alwan Lee, wide receiver/cornerback/kick returner Rudell

Lewin, defensive lineman Malcolm Jackson and rangy linebacker Joseph Jackson. Washington, Lee and Lewin were All-Dade honorees last season.

## CHAMINADE-MADONNA, HOLLYWOOD, FL (11-1)

This Florida Class 2A power returns seven offensive and five defensive starters from a team that went unbeaten in the regular season last year. The small-school contender has beefed up its schedule to include not only touted B.T. Washington of Miami but defending Texas Class 5A-1 champion Tyler Lee. The senior veterans are led by running back Alex Blucher and strong safety Jordan Delegal. Key juniors include defensive backs Akeem Auguste and Ryan Ruckle. A promising sophomore is quarterback Chad Rynning.

## LOWNDES, VALDOSTA, GA (15-0)

The Vikings celebrated their third state Class 5A title with their first unbeaten team last season. Seven offensive and eight defensive regulars return for their title defense, including six third-year regulars—quarterback Doug Belk, center Andrew Dunn, defensive tackle Asmar Ceasar, linebacker Antonio Townsend and defensive backs Jermel Demps and Steve Harden. The top college prospect could be tight end/linebacker/punter Matt Harper, who's also a baseball standout. Placekicker Curtis Schmidt is a weapon. Sophomore wide receiver Darius Parriet started as a freshman.

## PARKVIEW, LILBURN, GA (13-2)

The Panthers return eight starters on both sides of the ball from last season's state Class 5A runner-up squad. The senior veterans include two-way tackles Greg Billinger and Brian Lee, wide receiver/cornerback Steve Esmonde, tight end Michael Parker, two-way end Steven McCray, kicker Josh Veal and last year's top tackler, defensive end Gator Parker. The offense features three juniors in all-state running back Caleb King, two-way back Antonio Mohn and placekicker Blake Brettschneider. Replacing graduated quarterback Jeff Witt could be his brother, junior Patrick Witt, or senior Scott Steele.

## WARNER ROBINS, GA (14-0-1)

The Demons captured a state Class AAAA title in their first year after moving down from the largest classification. Fifteen starters—seven offense and eight defense—will anchor the defending champs. Junior quarterback Mark Wright is joined by three skilled seniors in running back Dartz Walker and receivers Larry Richardson and Judd Holland. Veteran offensive linemen include junior center Robert Luciano and seniors Adam Scott and Stephen Clark. Three college prospects spark the defense—strong safety Dominique Davenport, end Antonio Felder and cornerback Maurice Gray. Tackle Joseph Wood and linebacker Jordan Singletary, both seniors, also return.

## LINCOLN WAY EAST, FRANKFORT, IL (8-5)

The Griffins will be seeking their first state Class 8A title in their fifth season after advancing to the semifinals last year. Seven offensive and eight defensive starters return for their senior season with high hopes. Fullback/linebacker Gus Olofsson is a three-year regular. Twin vets are wide receiver Joe Mau and defensive back Alex Mau. Quarterback Anthony Kropp and wide receiver Hank Johnston are battle-tested. The defense includes back Pat Geary, outside linebackers Cory Swaim and Sean Lynch and linemen Colin Luczynski, Jake Bewley and Corey Smith. Wade Novak and Keenan Clifford anchor the offensive line.

## WARREN CENTRAL, INDIANAPOLIS, IN (14-1)

The Warriors are loaded for bear in a bid for a third straight state Class 5A title. Central returns 17 starters—10 offensive, seven defensive and all



ree specialists. Two touted juniors are among the nation's best: running back Darren Evans, the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year, and safety Jeremy Finch. Evans rushed for 2,245 yards and 27 TDs last season. Finch had seven interceptions. The offensive line includes four players who weigh more than 295 pounds: all-stater Jason Onyebuagu, Ezekiel Hubbard, Brian Beeler and Jacob McLaurin. Quarterback Dexter Taylor turns after accounting for 28 TDs last season.

### **VANGEL CHRISTIAN, SHREVEPORT, LA (12-3)**

The Eagles are reloading after finishing strong last season to capture their fourth state Class 5A title. Five offensive and seven defensive regulars are back. Mammoth lineman Doug Stroud (6-8, 340) anchors an offense that includes three top wide receivers in all-stater Jeff Hulett, Chase Jennings and junior Jeremy Little. The quarterback will be Alan Rogers, who is making a return to the program. On defense, three linemen and four secondary veterans lead the way. The linemen are seniors Greg Greathouse and Jon Bell and junior Jared Barron. Free safety Brian Kremer is a key defensive back, along with Ramon Broadway and Terrick Williams, plus junior Pat Chitman.

### **SOUTH, MIDDLETOWN, NJ (12-0)**

New Jersey's top-ranked team enters the season with 24 straight wins and a veteran cast headed by record-setting running back Johnshon Moreno, the EA Sports National Junior of the Year. Moreno, a preseason All-American and two-time all-stater, should shatter state career records for touchdowns (101) and points (656). He has already accumulated 96 TDs and 584 points. Last season, he rushed for 2,030 yards and scored 37 TDs. He's one of nine offensive regulars returning to go with five defensive starters.

### **INDEPENDENCE, CHARLOTTE, NC (15-0)**

The Patriots enter the season with the nation's longest active win streak (77 games) and will bid for a sixth straight state Class 4-AA championship with a familiar face on the sideline. He's head coach Tom Knotts, the 2003 EA Sports National Coach of the Year who guided Independence to the first four titles and 62 straight wins before spending a year on the Duke University staff. A lot of new faces will greet Knotts, but two familiar ones will be all-state offensive lineman Pierre Andrews (6-2, 275), the top blocker on a team that averaged 54 points and 500 yards a game. Also back is prolific placekicker Brad Barnhouse, who booted 100 conversions last season.

### **COLERAIN, CINCINNATI, OH (15-0)**

The 2004 Cardinals were one of the most dominating Ohio teams in several years and return 13 players who started games last season for this Division I state champ. Two mammoth tackles anchor the offensive line—touted Connor Smith (6-6, 295) and Eric Ornella (6-4, 285)—while fleet Terrence Sherrer and Kyle Lumpkin are touted running backs. Rico Booker returns at wide receiver and Brandon Wyatt will be the center. Junior nose guard Calvin Dixon started as a sophomore. Senior defenders include linebackers Tyler Moeller, Cobrani Mixon and Mike Scherd, plus safety Brian Zainhart. Punter/placekicker Matt Schulte also returns.

### **GLENVILLE, CLEVELAND, OH (12-2)**

The Tarblooders have reloaded from last year's squad that advanced to the state Division I semifinals, and seek to take the final step for the school's first-ever state football crown. One of Ohio's top boys track programs, Glenville has produced several touted college prospects the last few years. This year should be no different. The veterans include cornerback/wide receiver/running back Raymond Small, cornerback/wide receiver Raymond Fisher and touted defensive end Robert Rose.

### **UNION, TULSA, OK (13-1)**

The Redskins will be seeking their third state Class 6A crown in four years with a lineup that includes five offensive regulars and six defensive starters from last season. The main concern is finding a new quarterback, where senior Casey Horton and sophomore Brandon Rogers are fighting for the job. The top college prospect is cornerback Dominique Franks, who will double as a running back. Other senior veterans include three third-year offensive linemen—Casey Thurber,

Seth Cowan and Kyle Crafts. They're joined by touted junior tackle Matt Romine. Three defensive linemen return in Chase Nelson, Clint Fowler and Terrill Jimoh. Linebacker Ryan Hoyt was the team's leading tackler in '04.

### **BISHOP McDEVITT, HARRISBURG, PA (10-3)**

The team to beat in Pennsylvania this season could be this talent-laden squad that returns 16 starters—eight on both sides of the ball—from the state Class 4A semifinalist. The leader of the pack is preseason All-America running back LeSean McCoy, the state's Class 4A Player of the Year. McCoy rushed for more than 2,800 yards and scored 40 TDs last season, including 1,100 yards and 16 TDs in three playoff games. McCoy is one of six third-season regulars on hand. Others are highly recruited two-way lineman Jason Kates (6-4, 305) and quarterback Jeremy Ricker, plus offensive tackle Tucker Baumbach (6-7, 315) and defensive backs Eric McGovern and Vince Comasco.

### **BYRNES, DUNCAN, SC (13-1)**

Seventy lettermen return as Byrnes seeks to extend its state Class 4A title string to four straight years. The 15 returning starters include seven on offense and eight on defense. Junior quarterback Will Korn already has major-college scholarship offers after passing for 2,977 yards and 31 TDs and rushing for 642 yards and nine scores last season. The top senior is preseason All-America defensive back Prince Miller, who also plays wide receiver and returns kicks. Other top secondary players are Josh Williams, Kendall Glenn and LaMarr Bomar. Korn will throw to wide receivers Matt Quinn and Jamar Anderson.

### **CARROLL, SOUTHLAKE, TX (16-0)**

The Dragons enter the season as the new "King of the Hill" nationally. Last season, Carroll capped a perfect season with its second state Class 5A-2 title in three years and added the mythical national-ranking crown. Replacing quarterback Chase Daniel, the EA Sports National Player of the Year and a Missouri recruit, will be backup Greg McElroy, who impressed in summer camps. The roster includes 37 lettermen, with five offensive and six defensive starters returning. The three top receivers are back in Clint Renfro, McKay Jacobson and James Allen. The offensive line is anchored by Mike Prince and Bryce Buford. Key defenders include linebacker Patrick Benoist, end Michael Boydston, safety Joseph Agnew, tackle Adam Powers and cornerbacks Scott Simpson and junior Arius Ford. Carroll has won 47 of its last 48 games.

### **LEE, TYLER, TX (12-3)**

The defending state Class 5A-1 champion Raiders must rebuild the offensive line but return five offensive plus four defensive regulars this season. Third-year quarterback Preston Hill runs the attack, which includes tailback Jason Williams, wide receivers Jonathan Williams and Jacob Amie and junior tight end Tyler Fleet.

### **LONGVIEW, TX (12-1)**

The Lobos return six starters on each side of the ball and will face one of the most challenging schedules in the Lone Star State. The opponents include defending state Class 5A-1 champion Tyler Lee, Lufkin and two Louisiana teams that met for the Class 5A title last year—champion Evangel Christian and runner-up West Monroe. The offense includes two touted prospects in tailback Vondrell McGee and lineman Trent Williams (6-5, 285). McGee rushed for 2,039 yards and 27 TDs last season.

### **WESTFIELD, SPRING, TX (13-2)**

The Mustangs return 12 starters—seven offense, five defense—from a state Class 5A-1 runner-up squad. Leading the way is quarterback Pierre Beasley, who passed for 16 TDs and scored 12 times last season.

### **LANDSTOWN, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (14-0)**

Preseason All-American Percy Harvin returns at wide receiver and cornerback to lead 12 starters who return from a state Division 6 title team. Harvin, who can also play running back and quarterback, racked up 476 total yards and four touchdowns, plus intercepted three passes in last year's finals.



# DIVISION I-A '04 NCAA STATISTICS

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

### PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Stefan LeFors, Louisville	SR	12	257	189	73.54	3	1.17	2596	10.10	20	7.78	181.7
Alex Smith, Utah	JR	12	317	214	67.51	4	1.26	2952	9.31	32	10.09	176.5
Jason Campbell, Auburn	SR	13	270	188	69.63	7	2.59	2700	10.00	20	7.41	172.9
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	SO	12	462	309	66.88	4	0.87	4002	8.66	41	8.87	167.2
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo	JR	13	399	280	70.18	8	2.01	3518	8.82	27	6.77	162.6
Jason White, Oklahoma	SR	13	390	255	65.38	9	2.31	3205	8.22	35	8.97	159.4
Matt Leinart, Southern California	JR	13	412	269	65.29	6	1.46	3322	8.06	33	8.01	156.5
Aaron Rodgers, California	JR	12	316	209	66.14	8	2.53	2566	8.12	24	7.59	154.3
Lester Ricard, Tulane	SO	9	231	143	61.90	9	3.90	1881	8.14	21	9.09	152.5
Kyle Orton, Purdue	SR	11	389	236	60.67	5	1.29	3090	7.94	31	7.97	151.1
Buck Pierce, New Mexico State	SR	11	285	191	67.02	5	1.75	2253	7.91	16	5.61	148.4
David Greene, Georgia	SR	12	299	175	58.53	4	1.34	2508	8.39	20	6.69	148.4
Jared Zabransky, Boise State	SO	12	327	206	63.00	12	3.67	2927	8.95	16	4.89	147.0
Darrell Hackney, UAB	JR	12	358	197	55.03	8	2.23	3070	8.58	26	7.26	146.6
Gino Guidugli, Cincinnati	SR	11	342	210	61.40	8	2.34	2633	7.70	26	7.60	146.5
Chris Leak, Florida	SO	12	399	238	59.65	12	3.01	3197	8.01	29	7.27	144.9
Rashed Marshall, West Virginia	SR	12	242	144	59.50	9	3.72	1886	7.79	19	7.85	143.4
Donovan Woods, Oklahoma St.	FR	12	187	97	51.87	5	2.67	1628	8.71	13	6.95	142.6
Joshua Haldi, Northern Ill.	SR	9	179	94	52.51	4	2.23	1384	7.73	15	8.38	140.6
Charlie Frye, Akron	SR	11	346	220	63.58	8	2.31	2623	7.58	18	5.20	139.8
Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech	SR	12	642	421	65.58	18	2.80	4742	7.39	32	4.98	138.5
Andrew Walter, Arizona St.	SR	11	426	244	57.28	9	2.11	3150	7.39	30	7.04	138.4
Brock Berlin, Miami (Fla.)	SR	12	348	195	56.03	6	1.72	2680	7.70	22	6.32	138.1
Clint Marks, Middle Tennessee	SO	11	368	259	70.38	14	3.80	2749	7.47	14	3.80	138.1
Josh Betts, Miami (Ohio)	JR	13	444	268	60.36	14	3.15	3510	7.91	23	5.18	137.6
Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M	JR	12	344	200	58.14	4	1.16	2791	8.11	14	4.07	137.4

### TOTAL OFFENSE

	YEAR	G	CAR	RUSH	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech	SR	12	52	49	216	-167	642	4742	694	4575	6.59	381.3
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	SO	12	95	415	115	300	462	4002	557	4302	7.72	358.5
Timmy Chang, Hawaii	SR	13	37	123	108	15	602	4258	639	4273	6.69	328.7
Joshua Cribbs, Kent State	SR	10	170	1151	258	893	335	2215	505	3108	6.15	310.8
Alex Smith, Utah	JR	12	135	774	143	631	317	2952	452	3583	7.93	298.6
Matt Bohnet, Eastern Mich.	JR	11	100	562	138	424	434	2807	534	3231	6.05	293.7
Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M	JR	12	151	932	214	718	344	2791	495	3509	7.09	292.4
Derek Anderson, Oregon State	SR	11	80	284	172	112	389	3090	469	3202	6.83	291.1
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo	JR	13	91	331	140	191	399	3518	490	3709	7.57	285.3
Walter Washington, Temple	JR	11	222	1104	215	889	332	2207	554	3096	5.59	281.5
Ryan Hart, Rutgers	JR	11	46	74	167	-93	453	3154	499	3061	6.13	278.3
Josh Betts, Miami (Ohio)	JR	13	83	314	228	86	444	3510	527	3596	6.82	276.6
Andrew Walter, Arizona State	SR	11	58	112	224	-112	426	3150	484	3038	6.28	276.2
Dan Orlovsky, Connecticut	SR	12	32	79	120	-41	457	3354	489	3313	6.78	276.1
Chris Leak, Florida	SO	12	61	229	150	79	399	3197	460	3276	7.12	273.0
Jared Zabransky, Boise State	SO	12	130	570	244	326	327	2927	457	3253	7.12	271.1
Tyler Palko, Pittsburgh	SO	12	129	469	330	139	409	3067	538	3206	5.96	267.2
Steven Jyles, La.-Monroe	JR	11	150	703	116	587	366	2322	516	2909	5.64	264.5
Jerry Babb, La.-Lafayette	SO	11	101	630	132	498	385	2365	486	2863	5.89	260.3
Clint Marks, Middle Tennessee	SO	11	73	242	129	113	368	2749	441	2862	6.49	260.2
Brett Basanez, Northwestern	JR	12	83	361	103	258	460	2838	543	3096	5.70	258.0
Kevin Kolb, Houston	SO	11	118	354	303	51	353	2766	471	2817	5.98	256.1
Darrell Hackney, UAB	JR	12	81	196	240	-44	358	3070	439	3026	6.89	252.2
Matt Leinart, Southern California	JR	13	49	143	187	-44	412	3322	461	3278	7.11	252.2
Danny Wimpine, Memphis	SR	12	57	187	75	112	398	2892	455	3004	6.60	250.3

### ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/G
Darren Sproles, Kansas State	SR	11	1318	223	34	492	303	6.82	2067	187.91
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	JR	12	1948	210	0	72	335	6.66	2230	185.83
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	SO	11	1656	117	0	231	277	7.23	2004	182.18
Jamario Thomas, North Texas	FR	10	1801	14	0	0	288	6.30	1815	181.50
Reggie Bush, Southern California	SO	13	908	509	376	537	231	10.09	2330	179.23
J.J. Arrington, California	SR	12	2018	121	0	0	310	6.90	2139	178.25
Cedric Benson, Texas	SR	12	1834	179	0	0	348	5.78	2013	167.75
Andre Hall, South Florida	JR	11	1357	149	0	332	244	7.53	1838	167.09
Jerry Seymour, Central Mich.	SO	11	1284	413	0	105	313	5.76	1802	163.82
Cory Rodgers, TCU	SO	11	35	836	183	723	122	14.57	1777	161.55
Alvin Pearson, Virginia	SR	12	1037	402	314	185	257	7.54	1938	161.50
Ryan Moats, Louisiana Tech	JR	12	1774	116	0	0	303	6.24	1890	157.50
Pierre Thomas, Illinois	SO	11	893	95	0	677	191	8.72	1665	151.36
Howard Jackson, UTEP	SR	12	1187	268	9	328	283	6.33	1792	149.33
Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma	FR	13	1925	12	0	0	344	5.63	1937	149.00
Dominique Dorsey, UNLV	SR	11	1260	55	12	310	254	6.44	1637	148.82
Maurice Drew, UCLA	SO	11	1007	262	152	185	195	8.24	1606	146.00
Domenik Hixon, Akron	JR	11	0	882	275	449	100	16.06	1606	146.00
Terrence Whitehead, Oregon	JR	11	1144	405	53	0	252	6.36	1602	145.64
Antonio Warren, Arkansas State	SR	11	1036	72	0	481	230	6.91	1589	144.45
Noah Herron, Northwestern	SR	12	1381	351	0	0	310	5.59	1732	144.33
Chad Owens, Hawaii	SR	13	0	1290	531	45	141	13.23	1866	143.54
Vernand Morency, Oklahoma St.	JR	11	1474	101	0	0	263	5.99	1575	143.18
Chris Johnson, East Carolina	FR	11	561	236	0	765	203	7.69	1562	142.00
Lance Moore, Toledo	SR	13	19	1189	180	446	127	14.44	1834	141.08
Michael Hart, Michigan	FR	12	1455	237	0	0	308	5.49	1692	141.00

### RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC
Dante Ridgeway, Ball State	JR	11	105	1399	8	9.5
Braylon Edwards, Michigan	SR	12	97	1330	15	8.0
Bobby Bernal-Wood, Idaho	SR	12	96	938	3	8.0
Chad Owens, Hawaii	SR	13	102	1290	17	7.8
Eric Deslauriers, Eastern Mich.	JR	11	84	1257	13	7.6
Nichiren Flowers, Nevada	JR	12	91	1126	6	7.5
Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue	SR	12	89	1095	16	7.4
Tres Moses, Rutgers	SR	11	81	1056	5	7.3
Josh Davis, Marshall	SR	12	86	914	7	7.1
Mike Hass, Oregon State	JR	12	86	1379	7	7.1
Lance Moore, Toledo	SR	13	90	1189	14	6.9
Derek Hagan, Arizona State	JR	12	83	1248	10	6.9
Kerry Wright, Middle Tennessee	SR	11	76	1048	11	6.9
Nehemiah Glover, Texas Tech	SR	9	62	660	1	6.8
Darrell Dowers, Kent State	SR	10	68	712	4	6.8
Greg Jennings, Western Mich.	SR	11	74	1092	11	6.7
Paris Warren, Utah	SR	12	80	1076	12	6.6

### INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT%
Chris Harris, La.-Monroe	SR	11	7	11	0	.64
Charles Gordon, Kansas	SO	11	7	52	0	.64
Ko Simpson, South Carolina	FR	11	6	94	1	.55
Brandon Payne, New Mexico	SR	12	6	69	0	.50
Morgan Scalley, Utah	SR	12	6	79	0	.50
Kerry Rhodes, Louisville	SR	12	6	56	1	.50
Ray Henderson, Boston College	JR	12	6	52	0	.50
Keon Newton, Bowling Green	SR	12	6	107	2	.50
Mitch Meeuwisen, Oregon State	SR	12	6	12	0	.50
Chris Royal, Marshall	JR	12	6	103	1	.50

### SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Tyler Jones, Boise State	SR	12	0	69	24	141	11.75
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	JR	12	23	0	0	138	11.50
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	SO	11	21	0	0	126	11.45
P.J. Pope, Bowling Green	JR	12	21	0	0	126	10.50
Jamario Thomas, North Texas	FR	10	17	0	0	102	10.20
Chad Owens, Hawaii	SR	13	22	0	0	132	10.15
Eric Shelton, Louisville	JR	12	20	0	0	120	10.00
Cedric Benson, Texas	SR	12	20	0	0	120	10.00
Ryan Moats, Louisiana Tech	JR	12	19	0	0	114	9.50
Carlton Jones, Army	JR	11	17	0	0	104	9.45
Arthur Carmody, Louisville	FR	12	0	77	12	113	9.42
Shaun Suisham, Bowling Green	SR	12	0	69	14	111	9.25
Taurean Henderson, Texas Tech	JR	12	18	0	0	108	9.00
Stephen Gostkowski, Memphis	JR	12	0	48	20	108	9.00
David Rayner, Michigan State	SR	12	0	39	22	105	8.75
Andrew Wellock, Eastern Mich.	SO	11	0	32	21	95	8.64
Ryan Killeen, Southern California	SR	13	0	64	16	112	8.62
Steve Savoy, Utah	SO	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Mike Nugent, Ohio State	SR	12	0	30	24	102	8.50
Wali Lundy, Virginia	JR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Walter Washington, Temple	JR	11	15	0	0	92	8.36
Chris Nendick, Northern Illinois	FR	12	0	51	16	99	8



## DIVISION I-A '04 NCAA STATISTICS

NCAA

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

## TEAM LEADERS

## PUNT RETURNS

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State	FR	15	384	4	25.60
Kevin Robinson, Utah State	FR	17	382	2	22.47
Darrell Blackmon, N.C. State	FR	12	214	1	17.83
Travis Williams, East Carolina	FR	20	354	1	17.70
Domenik Hixon, Akron	JR	16	275	1	17.19
Devin Hester, Miami (Fla.)	SO	19	326	3	17.16
Dan Sheldon, Northern Illinois	SR	24	394	1	16.42
Roscoe Parrish, Miami (Fla.)	JR	20	324	2	16.20
Reggie Bush, Southern California	SO	24	376	2	15.67
Jahmal Fenner, UTEP	SR	21	324	1	15.43
Justin Phinisee, Oregon	JR	17	261	1	15.35
Thomas Flowers, Georgia	FR	16	242	0	15.13
Craig Bragg, UCLA	SR	19	285	1	15.00
Greg Jennings, Western Michigan	SR	21	311	2	14.81
Chad Owens, Hawaii	SR	36	531	5	14.75
Adam Jones, West Virginia	JR	21	306	1	14.57
Larry Taylor, Connecticut	FR	23	333	1	14.48
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	SO	39	547	2	14.03
Willie Reid, Florida St.	JR	38	522	0	13.74
Hoost Marsh, Wyoming	FR	25	337	0	13.48

## PUNTING

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Brandon Fields, Michigan State	JR	12	50	2394	47.88
John Torp, Colorado	JR	13	72	3351	46.54
Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor	SO	11	62	2850	45.97
Steve Weatherford, Illinois	JR	11	57	2589	45.42
Matt Payne, Brigham Young	SR	11	62	2808	45.29
Joel Stelly, La.-Monroe	JR	11	62	2796	45.10
Bryce Benekos, UTEP	SR	12	62	2732	44.06
Ryan Plackemeier, Wake Forest	JR	11	64	2809	43.89
Tom Malone, Southern California	JR	13	49	2144	43.76
Adam Podlesh, Maryland	SO	11	63	2756	43.75
Jared Cook, Mississippi State	SR	9	49	2143	43.73
Chris Kluge, UCLA	SR	12	61	2647	43.39
Adam Graessle, Pittsburgh	SO	12	60	2600	43.33
Jeff Babcock, Colorado St.	SR	11	48	2078	43.29
Chris MacDonald, Arizona State	FR	12	64	2758	43.09
Kyle Basler, Washington State	JR	11	78	3361	43.09
Thomas Olmsted, Troy	JR	12	76	3272	43.05
Adam Finley, Michigan	SR	12	64	2751	42.98

## FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Mike Nugent, Ohio State	SR	12	27	24	.889	2.00
Tyler Jones, Boise State	SR	12	27	24	.889	2.00
Andrew Wellco, Eastern Mich.	SO	11	23	21	.913	1.91
David Rayner, Michigan State	SR	12	31	22	.710	1.83
Jonathan Nichols, Mississippi	SR	11	27	20	.741	1.82
Mason Crosby, Colorado	SO	13	29	23	.793	1.77
Kyle Schlicher, Iowa	SO	12	26	21	.808	1.75
Matt Nuzie, Connecticut	JR	12	28	20	.714	1.67
Stephen Gostkowski, Memphis	JR	12	24	20	.833	1.67
Brandon Pace, Virginia Tech	SO	13	27	21	.778	1.62
Garrett Rivas, Michigan	SO	12	24	19	.792	1.58
Alexis Serna, Oregon State	FR	11	20	17	.850	1.55
Josh Cummings, Pittsburgh	JR	12	27	18	.667	1.50
Deric Yaussi, Wyoming	JR	12	25	18	.720	1.50
Jesse Ainsworth, Arizona State	SO	12	28	18	.643	1.50
Nick Novak, Maryland	SR	11	22	16	.727	1.45
Michael Sgroi, Stanford	JR	11	24	16	.667	1.45
Connor Hughes, Virginia	JR	12	24	17	.708	1.42

## KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 12 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Justin Miller, Clemson	JR	20	661	2	33.05
Larry Taylor, Connecticut	FR	12	376	1	31.33
Ashlan Davis, Tulsa	JR	37	1131	5	30.57
Lance Bennett, Indiana	SO	20	599	1	29.95
John Eubanks, Southern Miss.	JR	21	618	1	29.43
T.J. Rushing, Stanford	JR	23	653	1	28.39
Asante White, Central Mich.	FR	12	336	0	28.00
Will Blackmon, Boston College	JR	28	762	1	27.21
Diamond Ferri, Syracuse	SR	24	653	0	27.21
Pierre Thomas, Illinois	SO	25	677	1	27.08
Tyrene Prothro, Alabama	SO	17	452	1	26.59
Korey Kirkpatrick, Miami (Ohio)	SR	18	468	0	26.00
Devin Hester, Miami (Fla.)	SO	15	389	1	25.93
Chris Davis, Duke	FR	20	516	1	25.80
Maurice Hall, Ohio State	SR	19	487	0	25.63
Reggie Bush, Southern California	SO	21	537	0	25.57
Mark Onibokun, Boise State	SR	15	382	0	25.47
Reggie Lindsey, UAB	JR	22	560	0	25.45

## RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Rice	11	688	3372	4.90	30	306.55
Texas	12	615	3590	5.84	41	299.17
Navy	12	689	3474	5.04	36	289.50
Air Force	11	648	3051	4.71	32	277.36
Minnesota	12	572	3082	5.39	29	256.83
California	12	509	3081	6.05	30	256.75
West Virginia	12	590	3034	5.14	23	252.83
Louisville	12	534	3005	5.63	47	250.42
Virginia	12	550	2914	5.30	34	242.83
Michigan State	12	500	2862	5.72	22	238.50
Northern Illinois	12	550	2858	5.02	28	238.17
Oklahoma State	12	594	2844	4.79	32	237.00
Utah	12	525	2833	5.40	36	236.08
Boise State	12	596	2758	4.63	49	229.83
Fresno State	12	506	2730	5.40	36	227.50
Oklahoma	13	565	2709	4.79	22	208.38
Wake Forest	11	527	2267	4.30	18	206.09
Memphis	12	482	2438	5.06	26	203.17
Louisiana Tech	12	490	2403	4.90	25	200.25
LSU	12	506	2326	4.60	20	193.83

## RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Southern California	13	394	1032	2.62	5	79.4
California	12	368	990	2.69	7	82.5
Florida State	12	418	997	2.39	5	83.1
Notre Dame	12	399	1058	2.65	6	88.2
Iowa	12	392	1110	2.83	8	92.5
Oklahoma	13	402	1230	3.06	10	94.6
LSU	12	410	1197	2.92	7	99.8
Troy	12	444	1211	2.73	12	100.9
N.C. State	11	429	1126	2.62	6	102.4
Boise State	12	373	1247	3.34	17	103.9
Nebraska	11	390	1144	2.93	14	104.0
Auburn	13	413	1354	3.28	4	104.2
Georgia Tech	12	404	1255	3.11	13	104.6
Purdue	12	405	1264	3.12	6	105.3
Georgia	12	421	1283	3.05	7	106.9
Texas	12	405	1289	3.18	12	107.4
New Mexico	12	463	1299	2.81	13	108.3
Louisville	12	419	1308	3.12	10	109.0
Marshall	12	437	1332	3.05	11	111.0
Kent State	11	430	1241	2.89	13	112.8

## TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Louisville	12	893	6468	7.24	80	539.00
Bowling Green	12	904	6076	6.72	69	506.33
Utah	12	869	5997	6.90	75	499.75
Boise State	12	951	5912	6.22	74	492.67
California	12	840	5909	7.03	59	492.42
Texas Tech	12	944	5900	6.25	59	491.67
Texas	12	890	5573	6.26	55	464.42
Oklahoma	13	971	6007	6.19	61	462.08
Memphis	12	903	5524	6.12	53	460.33
Michigan State	12	899	5520	6.14	41	460.00
Toledo	13	976	5970	6.12	58	459.23
Southern California	13	923	5838	6.33	64	449.08
Purdue	12	910	5358	5.89	50	446.50
Northern Illinois	12	855	5265	6.16	53	438.75
Minnesota	12	841	5260	6.25	47	438.33
Arizona State	12	937	5225	5.58	43	435.42
Hawaii	13	900	5649	6.28	63	434.54
TCU	11	841	4738	5.63	48	430.73
Connecticut	12	885	5157	5.83	44	429.75
Texas A&M	12	812	5141	6.33	44	428.42

## TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
N.C. State	11	701	2435	3.47	23	221.36
Alabama	12	726	2946	4.06	23	245.50
LSU	12	743	3083	4.15	25	256.92
Virginia Tech	13	794	3484	4.39	18	268.00
Auburn	13	780	3609	4.63	19	277.62
Southern California	13	851	3631	4.27	20	279.31
Florida State	12	798	3406	4.27	18	283.83
Georgia	12	747	3467	4.64	23	288.92
Wisconsin	12	756	3495	4.62	22	291.25
Penn State	11	753	3207	4.26	18	291.55
Iowa	12	816	3526	4.32	25	293.83
Georgia Tech	12	799	3575	4.47	28	297.92
Oklahoma	13	812	3887	4.79	28	299.00
Missouri	11	705	3315	4.70	27	301.36
Louisville	12	804	3671	4.57	30	305.92
Troy	12	850	3732	4.39	22	311.00
Kent State	11	753	3437	4.56	31	312.45
Oregon State	12	845	3760	4.45	38	313.33
Virginia	12	745	3760	5.05	26	313.33
South Carolina	11	702	3467	4.94	28	315.18

## TURNOVER MARGIN

	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
Southern California	16	22	38	12	7	19	1.46
Oklahoma State	15	11	26	4	5	9	1.42
Bowling Green	11	14	25	6	4	10	1.25
Utah	13	16	29	9	5	14	1.25
Miami (Fla.)	14	13	27	7	6	13	1.17
Iowa	15	17	32	5	14	19	1.08
Pittsburgh	9	17	26	6	7	13	1.08
North Texas	12	14	26	9	4	13	1.08
Virginia Tech	13	19	32	10	9	19	1.00
Louisville	10	17	27	11	5	16	0.92
Troy	7	25	32	10	11	21	0.92
Iowa State	8	17	25	7	8	15	0.83
Boise State	8	23	31	9	13	22	0.75
New Mexico	15	13	28	7	12	19	0.75
Texas A&M	9	13	22	9	4	13	0.75
Stanford	11	16	27	5	14	19	0.73
Northern Illinois	7	13	20	1	11	12	0.67
Wake Forest	9	11	20	6	7	13	0.64
Fresno State	13	16	29	7	15	22	0.58
Florida State	13	16	29	7	15	22	0.58

## PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Texas Tech	12	651	426	18	65.44	4796	11.26	34	399.7
Hawaii	13	636	370	18	58.18	4402	11.90	38	338.6
Bowling Green	12	472	313	4	66.31	4057	12.96	41	338.1
Purdue	12	486	297	8	61.11	3854	12.98	38	321.2
Arizona State	12	502	289	10	57.57	3808	13.18	35	317.3
Rutgers	11	473	303	20	64.06	3416	11.27	19	310.5
Oregon State	12	532	287	17	53.95	3706	12.91	29	308.8
Toledo	13	449	308	10	68.60	3879	12.59	28	298.4
Louisville	12	359	256	5	71.31	3463	13.53	27	288.6
Connecticut	12	464	292	15	62.93	3376	11.56	23	281.3
Miami (Ohio)	13	460	277	16	60.22	3635	13.12	24	279.6
Brigham Young	11	423	234	14	55.32	3075	13.14	18	279.5
Southern California	13	430	282	7	65.58	3552	12.52	34	271.7
Florida	12	407	243	12	59.71	3253	13.39	29	271.1
Middle Tennessee	11	404	282	16	69.80	2945	10.44	15	267.7
Western Mich.	11	431	259	17	60.09	2913	11.25	23	264.8
Nevada	12	473	278	14	58.77	3176	11.42	18	264.7
TCU	11	365	204	8	55.89	2910	14.26	21	264.5
Utah	12	344	232	5	67.44	3164	13.64	33	263.7
Boise State	12	355	221	13	62.25	3154	14.27	18	262.8



# DIVISION I-AA '04 NCAA STATISTICS

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

### PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Erik Meyer, Eastern Wash.	JR	13	382	259	67.80	9	2.36	3707	9.70	31	8.12	171.4
Joel Sambursky, Southern Ill.	JR	12	234	142	60.68	5	2.14	2224	9.50	19	8.12	163.0
Eric Sanders, Northern Iowa	FR	9	150	95	63.33	5	3.33	1307	8.71	15	10.00	162.9
Craig Ochs, Montana	SR	15	450	309	68.67	8	1.78	3807	8.46	33	7.33	160.4
Lang Campbell, William & Mary	SR	14	455	298	65.49	5	1.10	3988	8.76	30	6.59	158.7
Richie Williams, Appalachian St.	JR	10	350	234	66.86	10	2.86	3109	8.88	24	6.86	158.4
Princeton Shepherd, Hampton	JR	12	200	108	54.00	7	3.50	1890	9.45	18	9.00	156.1
Dustin Long, Sam Houston St.	SR	14	531	333	62.71	18	3.39	4588	8.64	39	7.34	152.7
Ingle Martin, Furman	JR	13	320	198	61.88	9	2.81	2792	8.73	22	6.88	152.2
Mark Borda, Lehigh	JR	12	330	205	62.12	6	1.82	2682	8.13	24	7.27	150.8
Martin Hanks, Southeastern La.	SO	11	540	357	66.11	12	2.22	4240	7.85	35	6.48	149.0
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	FR	13	425	272	64.00	10	2.35	3318	7.81	31	7.29	148.9
Shawn Brady, Northeastern	SR	11	287	175	60.98	11	3.83	2486	8.66	17	5.92	145.6
Barrick Neely, Texas St.	JR	9	143	84	58.74	6	4.20	1202	8.41	10	6.99	144.0
Cedric Stevens, Chattanooga	SR	11	354	232	65.54	10	2.82	2708	7.65	20	5.65	142.8
Scott Dolch, Central Conn. St.	SR	10	211	122	57.82	7	3.32	1591	7.54	17	8.06	141.1
Collin Drafts, Charleston So.	SO	10	340	212	62.35	8	2.35	2532	7.45	21	6.18	140.6
Todd Mortensen, San Diego	SR	11	389	234	60.15	6	1.54	2874	7.39	25	6.43	140.3
Casey Rehner, Southern Utah	SR	11	376	247	65.69	14	3.72	2846	7.57	21	5.59	140.3
Justin Rascati, James Madison	SO	15	283	185	65.37	5	1.77	2045	7.23	14	4.95	138.9
Justin Haddix, Western Ky.	SO	12	215	126	58.60	10	4.65	1976	9.19	8	3.72	138.8
Marvin Burroughs, Villanova	SO	11	334	209	62.57	12	3.59	2486	7.44	20	5.99	137.7
Brian Boland, Monmouth	SO	11	206	116	56.31	6	2.91	1643	7.98	12	5.83	136.7
Tom Zetts, Youngstown St.	SO	11	255	154	60.39	7	2.75	1822	7.15	16	6.27	135.6
Brett Young, South Carolina St.	SR	10	230	125	54.35	8	3.48	1851	8.05	14	6.09	135.1

### RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
DaVon Fowlkes, Appalachian St.	SR	11	103	1618	14	9.36
Ralph Plumb, Yale	SR	10	79	939	5	7.90
Felton Huggins, Southeastern La.	JR	11	84	1313	13	7.64
Luke Palko, St. Francis (Pa.)	SO	11	82	679	2	7.45
A.J. Smith, Southern Utah	SR	11	79	730	4	7.18
David Ball, New Hampshire	SO	12	86	1504	17	7.17
Jarrod Fuller, Sam Houston St.	SR	14	99	1383	8	7.07
Dan Castles, Pennsylvania	SR	10	70	966	8	7.00
Fred Arney, Sacramento St.	SR	11	76	1186	6	6.91
Edward Gadson, Charleston So.	FR	10	69	792	9	6.90
Devalle Ellis, Hofstra	JR	11	72	1037	12	6.55
Wade Fletcher, Columbia	SR	8	52	575	2	6.50
Efrem Hill, Samford	SR	11	71	984	10	6.45
Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash.	JR	13	83	1453	19	6.38
Luke Graham, Colgate	SR	11	70	933	6	6.36
Jarrett Schreck, Brown	JR	10	62	1035	3	6.20
Charles Sullivan, Hofstra	FR	11	68	938	7	6.18
Salé Key, Idaho St.	SR	11	67	943	9	6.09
Taurean Stephens, Tenn.-Martin	SO	11	67	732	6	6.09
Isaac Irby, Hofstra	SR	11	66	857	9	6.00

### INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Ahmad Treauo, Southern U.	SR	11	9	166	1	.82
Shannon James, Massachusetts	JR	11	8	110	0	.73
Thaddeus Kornegay, Fordham	SR	11	8	103	0	.73
Onsha Whitaker, Murray St.	SR	10	7	-1	0	.70
Allante Harrison, Towson	JR	11	7	128	2	.64
Darren Barnett, Southwest Mo. St.	JR	11	7	91	0	.64
Ken Chicoine, Cal Poly	SO	11	7	157	1	.64
Nick Collins, Bethune-Cookman	SR	10	6	108	1	.60
Antonio Thomas, Western Ky.	JR	12	7	15	0	.58
David Pittman, Northwestern St.	JR	9	5	136	1	.56

### SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Chaz Williams, Ga. Southern	SR	12	25	0	0	152	12.67
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	SO	10	18	0	0	108	10.80
Oscar Bonds, Jacksonville St.	SR	11	19	0	0	114	10.36
Evan Harney, San Diego	JR	11	19	0	0	114	10.36
Nick Hartigan, Brown	JR	10	17	0	0	102	10.20
Bradshaw Littlejohn, Morgan St.	JR	11	18	0	0	112	10.18
Ed Pricolo, Sacred Heart	JR	9	15	0	0	90	10.00
Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash.	JR	13	21	0	0	128	9.85
James Johnson, Ark.-Pine Bluff	SR	8	13	0	0	78	9.75
Brandon Jacobs, Southern Ill.	SR	12	19	0	0	114	9.50
Keldrick Williams, Alabama St.	JR	11	17	0	0	102	9.27
Daris Wilson, Bucknell	JR	11	17	0	0	102	9.27
Arrell Daniels, Hampton	JR	12	18	0	0	108	9.00
Craig Coffin, Southern Ill.	SO	12	0	66	13	105	8.75
DaVon Fowlkes, Appalachian St.	SR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
Charles Anthony, Tennessee St.	SR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
Jamaal Branch, Colgate	SR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
Andrew Paterini, Hampton	SO	12	0	56	16	104	8.67
Ken Triboletti, La Salle	SR	10	14	0	0	86	8.60
Joe McCourt, Lafayette	SR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
David Ball, New Hampshire	SO	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Chris Onorato, Hofstra	SR	11	0	48	15	93	8.45
Travis Glasford, Western Ill.	JR	10	14	0	0	84	8.40
Brian Wingert, Northern Iowa	SO	10	0	40	14	82	8.20
Greg Kuehn, William & Mary	JR	14	0	57	19	114	8.14

### RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Charles Anthony, Tennessee St.	SR	11	306	1739	5.68	14	158.09
Sean Mayers, St. Peter's	JR	10	270	1546	5.73	8	154.60
Ed Pricolo, Sacred Heart	JR	9	209	1339	6.41	14	148.78
Jason Jackson, Morgan St.	JR	9	202	1191	5.90	9	132.33
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	SO	10	248	1302	5.25	17	130.20
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	FR	12	234	1539	6.58	9	128.25
Nick Hartigan, Brown	JR	10	323	1263	3.91	17	126.30
Evan Harney, San Diego	JR	11	303	1334	4.40	18	121.27
John Leverett, Davidson	SR	9	208	1084	5.21	9	120.44
Robert Carr, Yale	SR	10	252	1185	4.70	7	118.50
Oscar Bonds, Jacksonville St.	SR	11	203	1263	6.22	19	114.82
Rashod Smith, Florida Int'l	SR	10	230	1133	4.93	12	113.30
Rudy Arcara, Iona	SO	10	221	1125	5.09	6	112.50
C.J. Hudson, Eastern Ky.	SR	11	266	1212	4.56	8	110.18
Donald Chapman, Tenn.-Martin	FR	10	246	1084	4.41	7	108.40
Jamaal Branch, Colgate	SR	11	295	1190	4.03	16	108.18
Travis Glasford, Western Ill.	JR	10	224	1080	4.82	11	108.00
John Taylor, Elon	SO	10	247	1069	4.33	10	106.90
Keldrick Williams, Alabama St.	JR	11	198	1167	5.89	17	106.09
Daris Wilson, Bucknell	SR	11	254	1149	4.52	17	104.45
Ray Perkins, Southeastern La.	SR	11	179	1148	6.41	9	104.36
Steve Baylark, Massachusetts	JR	11	243	1138	4.68	8	103.45
Ryan Fuqua, Portland St.	SR	10	193	1021	5.29	9	102.10
Cody Pratt, Southwest Mo. St.	SR	11	266	1116	4.20	12	101.45
Patrick Hall, Coastal Carolina	JR	11	155	1107	7.14	13	100.64

### TOTAL OFFENSE

	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Martin Hanks, Southeastern La.	SO	11	56	163	182	-19	540	4240	596	4221	7.08	383.7
Travis Lulay, Montana St.	JR	11	112	504	133	371	490	3485	602	3856	6.41	350.5
Richie Williams, Appalachian St.	JR	10	137	583	299	284	350	3109	487	3393	6.97	339.3
Ramon Nelson, Samford	SR	11	167	967	168	799	461	2807	628	3606	5.74	327.8
Dustin Long, Sam Houston St.	SR	14	45	112	124	-12	531	4588	576	4576	7.94	326.9
Casey Rehner, Southern Utah	SR	11	167	814	221	593	376	2846	543	3439	6.33	312.6
Bradshaw Littlejohn, Morgan St.	SR	11	138	970	195	775	359	2643	497	3418	6.88	310.7
Lang Campbell, William & Mary	SR	14	101	434	117	317	455	3988	556	4305	7.74	307.5
Erik Meyer, Eastern Wash.	JR	13	96	461	234	227	382	3707	478	3934	8.23	302.6
Thomas Ricks, Southern U.	SR	12	143	844	119	725	434	2798	577	3523	6.11	293.6
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	FR	13	125	499	216	283	425	3318	550	3601	6.55	277.0
Ben Dougherty, Florida A&M	SR	11	128	587	247	340	393	2696	521	3036	5.83	276.0
Mark Hetherington, Idaho St.	SR	11	47	46	271	-225	504	3192	551	2967	5.38	269.7
Craig Ochs, Montana	SR	15	95	377	192	185	450	3807	545	3992	7.32	266.1
Collin Drafts, Charleston So.	SO	10	89	295	175	120	340	2532	429	2652	6.18	265.2
T.J. Moriarty, Stony Brook	SR	10	116	389	250	139	340	2495	456	2634	5.78	263.4
Todd Mortensen, San Diego	SR	11	29	37	62	-25	389	2874	418	2849	6.82	259.0
Cedric Stevens, Chattanooga	SR	11	90	300	171	129	354	2708	444	2837	6.39	257.9
Nick Roberts, Gardner-Webb	JR	11	109	505	142	363	360	2410	469	2773	5.91	252.1
Andrew Goodenough, Southeast Mo.	SR	11	30	46	140	-94	466	2820	496	2726	5.50	247.8
Ryan Fitzpatrick, Harvard	SR	10	118	540	92	448	276	1986	394	2434	6.18	243.4
Niel Loebig, Duquesne	SR	10	48	176	131	45	359	2371	407	2416	5.94	241.6
Ingle Martin, Furman	JR	13	62	409	117	292	320	2792	382	3084	8.07	237.2
Marvin Burroughs, Villanova	SO	11	109	420	305	115	334	2486	443	2601	5.87	236.5
Mark Borda, Lehigh	JR	12	116	379	265	114	330	2682	446	2796	6.27	233.0

### ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/G
DaVon Fowlkes, Appalachian St.	SR	11	82	1618	194	419	152	15.22	2313	210.27
John Leverett, Davidson	SR	9	1084	144	0	534	247	7.13	1762	195.78
Charles Anthony, Tennessee St.	SR	11	1739	318	0	0	345	5.96	2057	187.00
Darrell Jones, Cal Poly	SR	11	53	1118	403	285	114	16.31	1859	169.00
Robert Carr, Yale	SR	10	1185	15	0	489	276	6.12	1689	168.90
Jerome Mathis, Hampton	SR	12	173	884	5	888	70	27.86	1950	162.50
Greg Fields, Princeton	JR	10	169	511	371	521	130	12.09	1572	157.20
Sean Mayers, St. Peter's	JR	10	1546	19	0	0	277	5.65	1565	156.50
Roger Robinson, Northern Ariz.	SR	11	907	356	67	381	262	6.53	1711	155.55
Dominique Thompson, Wm. & Mary	SR	14	56	1585	0	533	110	19.76	2174	155.29
Ed Pricolo, Sacred Heart	JR	9	1339	57	0	0	216	6.46	1396	155.11
Jason Jackson, Morgan St.	JR	9	1191	199	0	0	213	6.53	1390	154.44
Travis Glasford, Western Ill.	JR	10	1080	464	0	0	270	5.72	1544	154.40
James Norris, Western Ill.	SR	11	-3	729	180	789	91	18.63	1695	154.09
Steven Silva, Holy Cross	SR	11	708	507	85	363	241	6.90	1663	151.18
Ronald Colbert, Howard	SR	11	1018	44	200	387	243	6.79	1649	149.91
Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash.	JR	13	19	1453	460	0	110	17.56	1932	148.62
Ray Perkins, Southeastern La.	SR	11	1148	360	0	114	221	7.34	1622	147.45
Ken Tribioletti, La Salle	SR	10	764	531	16	162	195	7.55	1473	147.30
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	SO	10	1302	129	0	0	263	5.44	1431	143.10
Evan Harney, San Diego	JR	11	1334	233	0	0	332	4.72	1527	142.45
Brian Edwards, Harvard	SR	10	109	646	348	321	103	13.83	1464	142.40
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	FR	12	1539	121	0	45	251	6.79	1705	142.08
Sam Gado, Liberty	SR	9	901	95	0	269	160	7.91	1265	140.56
Steven Rush, Southwest Mo. St.	SR	10	7	741	153	502	87	16.13	1403	140.30



## DIVISION I-AA '04 NCAA STATISTICS

NCAA

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

## TEAM LEADERS

## PUNT RETURNS

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Craig Agee, Jacksonville St.	SO	18	369	2	20.50
Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash.	JR	26	460	2	17.69
Marquay McDaniel, Hampton	JR	26	440	2	16.92
Myron Jefferson, Ark.-Pine Bluff	JR	19	312	1	16.42
Toby Zeigler, Northwestern St.	JR	24	376	1	15.67
Dante Settles, Robert Morris	SR	17	256	1	15.06
Cletis Gordon, Jackson St.	JR	24	354	2	14.75
Deon Rheubottom, Delaware St.	JR	18	262	2	14.56
Darrell Jones, Cal Poly	SR	30	403	1	13.43
Chris Peters, Prairie View	JR	11	147	0	13.36
Tony Tompkins, Stephen F. Austin	JR	20	254	0	12.70
Brendan Ferrigno, Portland St.	SO	25	311	0	12.44
Lonnie Teagle, Alcorn St.	SR	28	342	0	12.21
Brian Edwards, Harvard	SR	29	348	3	12.00
Greg Fields, Princeton	JR	31	371	0	11.97
Quintin Mitchell, Northeastern	SR	18	209	0	11.61
Bernard Campbell, Sam Houston St.	SR	19	218	1	11.47
Sidney Haugabrook, Delaware	SR	27	308	2	11.41
Dennis Mitchell, Western Ky.	JR	24	273	1	11.38
Teddy Craft, Ga. Southern	SO	17	193	1	11.35

## PUNTING

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Paul Ernster, Northern Ariz.	SR	11	55	2631	47.84
David Simonhoff, Southeast Mo. St.	SO	11	69	3174	46.00
Ryan Hoffman, Illinois St.	JR	11	55	2413	43.87
Brian Claybourn, Western Ky.	SR	12	46	1996	43.39
Mike Mellow, Maine	SR	11	64	2758	43.09
Kyle McQuown, Idaho St.	SO	11	61	2627	43.07
Eric Hernandez, Prairie View	SO	11	62	2663	42.95
Damon Miller, Florida A&M	SR	11	51	2154	42.24
Travis Lulay, Montana St.	JR	11	50	2108	42.16
Chris Hicks, Samford	SR	11	63	2648	42.03
Cory Eloff, Texas St.	JR	11	54	2261	41.87
Cameron Muro, Hampton	JR	12	47	1967	41.85
Wyatt Kennah, Weber St.	JR	11	59	2464	41.76
Graham Whitlock, Gardner-Webb	SR	11	60	2503	41.72
Tyson Johnson, Montana	SO	15	56	2318	41.39
Trevor Ward, Southern Utah	FR	11	44	1819	41.34
Christian Koegel, Massachusetts	SO	11	59	2436	41.29
Ryan Feely, Jacksonville	JR	10	62	2535	40.89

## FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Joe Johnson, Weber St.	JR	11	22	17	.773	1.55
Kyle Hooper, Indiana St.	SO	11	20	16	.800	1.45
Brian Wingert, Northern Iowa	SO	10	18	14	.778	1.40
Jon Scifres, Southwest Mo. St.	JR	11	15	15	1.000	1.36
Chris Onorato, Hofstra	SR	11	20	15	.750	1.36
Greg Kuehn, William & Mary	JR	14	28	19	.679	1.36
E.J. Cochrane, Montana St.	SR	9	22	12	.545	1.33
Andrew Paterini, Hampton	SO	12	22	16	.727	1.33
Derek Javarone, Princeton	JR	10	18	13	.722	1.30
Matt Schindel, Harvard	FR	10	17	13	.765	1.30
Adam Moss, Florida Int'l	SR	10	19	13	.684	1.30
Jason Resch, Dayton	SR	10	19	13	.684	1.30
Steve Morgan, Brown	FR	10	19	13	.684	1.30
Josh Foster, Tennessee Tech	JR	11	19	14	.737	1.27
Lance Garner, Sam Houston St.	JR	13	21	16	.762	1.23
Dan Carpenter, Montana	K	15	29	18	.621	1.20
Jim Hall, Southeastern La.	JR	11	18	13	.722	1.18
Nathan DiLorenzo, Robert Morris	SO	11	16	13	.813	1.18

## KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Jerome Mathis, Hampton	SR	25	888	5	35.52
James Wright, Sacred Heart	SO	13	406	1	31.23
Cedric Bowen, Ark.-Pine Bluff	SR	13	385	2	29.62
Dante Ross, Bucknell	JR	16	465	2	29.06
Casey Gough, Holy Cross	SO	15	433	0	28.87
Corey Graham, New Hampshire	SO	24	686	0	28.58
Clay Green, Jacksonville St.	SO	13	364	0	28.00
Kyle Barber, Eastern Ky.	FR	16	441	1	27.56
Arel Gordon, Maine	SO	27	729	2	27.00
Sidney Haugabrook, Delaware	SR	27	728	1	26.96
Brian Edwards, Harvard	SR	12	321	1	26.75
Landry Carter, Grambling	FR	20	533	1	26.65
Wiley King, Weber St.	JR	29	767	0	26.45
Rondieka Darby, South Carolina St.	SO	18	471	0	26.17
Nick Garton, San Diego	JR	19	496	0	26.11
Cletis Gordon, Jackson St.	JR	16	416	1	26.00
Steven Silva, Holy Cross	SR	14	363	0	25.93
Dante Settles, Robert Morris	SR	18	464	0	25.78

## RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Ga. Southern	12	761	4439	5.83	56	369.92
Wofford	11	637	3356	5.27	35	305.09
Southern Ill.	12	557	3404	6.11	42	283.67
Rhode Island	11	692	3074	4.44	29	279.45
Coastal Caro.	11	522	3058	5.86	40	278.00
Jacksonville St.	11	550	2863	5.21	41	260.27
Albany (N.Y.)	11	562	2802	4.99	24	254.73
Bucknell	11	578	2770	4.79	27	251.82
Northwestern St.	12	549	2981	5.43	34	248.42
Nicholls St.	10	558	2454	4.40	24	245.40
Dayton	10	538	2407	4.47	28	240.70
South Carolina St.	11	561	2502	4.46	36	227.45
Hampton	12	588	2717	4.62	34	226.42
Western Ky.	12	543	2714	5.00	35	226.17
Furman	13	587	2940	5.01	33	226.15
Bethune-Cookman	10	477	2220	4.65	29	222.00
Drake	12	530	2642	4.98	26	220.17
Murray St.	11	534	2413	4.52	29	219.36

## RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Cal Poly	11	385	927	2.41	10	84.3
James Madison	15	494	1310	2.65	9	87.3
Northwestern St.	12	415	1128	2.72	15	94.0
Alabama A&M	11	403	1041	2.58	9	94.6
Dayton	10	345	975	2.83	8	97.5
Cornell	10	351	1011	2.88	9	101.1
Southern Utah	11	408	1116	2.74	12	101.5
Southern Ill.	12	401	1220	3.04	6	101.7
Alabama St.	11	380	1236	3.25	9	103.0
Jacksonville St.	11	366	1143	3.12	10	103.9
Tennessee Tech	11	376	1164	3.10	11	105.8
Drake	12	430	1278	2.97	11	106.5
Villanova	11	462	1173	2.54	16	106.6
Dartmouth	10	371	1077	2.90	6	107.7
Northern Iowa	11	368	1202	3.27	9	109.3
Portland St.	11	385	1228	3.19	14	111.6
Murray St.	11	403	1249	3.10	14	113.5
Eastern Ill.	11	407	1257	3.09	21	114.3

## TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Southeastern La.	11	896	5908	6.59	56	537.09
Southern Ill.	12	831	6032	7.26	67	502.67
Ga. Southern	12	896	5860	6.54	77	488.33
Eastern Wash.	13	970	6181	6.37	67	475.46
Sam Houston St.	14	990	6600	6.67	67	471.43
Morgan St.	11	788	5039	6.39	57	458.09
Furman	13	926	5914	6.39	59	454.92
Jacksonville St.	11	780	4889	6.27	56	444.45
San Diego	11	833	4756	5.71	54	432.36
William & Mary	14	984	6044	6.14	61	431.71
Montana St.	11	862	4737	5.50	38	430.64
Florida A&M	11	861	4733	5.50	37	430.27
Montana	15	1058	6416	6.06	69	427.73
South Carolina St.	11	839	4683	5.58	54	425.73
Appalachian St.	11	781	4681	5.99	50	425.55
Alabama St.	11	863	5086	5.89	54	423.83
Hofstra	11	776	4620	5.95	51	420.00
New Hampshire	13	1004	5446	5.42	56	418.92

## TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Dayton	10	616	2631	4.27	17	263.10
Northwestern St.	12	732	3296	4.50	36	274.67
Alabama A&M	11	739	3035	4.11	27	275.91
Ga. Southern	12	741	3321	4.48	28	276.75
Robert Morris	11	690	3181	4.62	27	289.18
Southern Utah	11	735	3256	4.43	31	296.00
Drake	12	799	3586	4.49	27	298.83
Howard	11	733	3289	4.49	27	299.00
Colgate	11	679	3293	4.85	30	299.36
Villanova	11	752	3295	4.38	33	299.55
Murray St.	11	746	3310	4.44	30	300.91
Western Carolina	11	740	3321	4.49	31	301.91
Southern Ill.	12	814	3652	4.49	19	304.33
Duquesne	10	679	3046	4.47	28	304.60
Northern Iowa	11	703	3355	4.79	24	305.00
Harvard	10	680	3062	4.50	17	306.20
Lehigh	12	830	3693	4.45	26	307.75
Ark.-Pine Bluff	8	612	2778	4.54	25	308.67

## TURNOVER MARGIN

	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/ G
	GAINED			LOST			
Coastal Carolina	11	27	38	10	6	16	2.00
Hampton	20	23	43	13	8	21	1.83
Montana	15	23	38	6	10	16	1.47
Wagner	14	19	33	8	11	19	1.27
Southern Ill.	10	17	27	5	7	12	1.25
Alabama St.	17	17	34	8	12	20	1.17
Bethune-Cookman	15	20	35	18	6	24	1.10
Northern Iowa	12	11	23	4	8	12	1.00
Jacksonville St.	11	16	27	11	5	16	1.00
Wofford	12	15	27	11	5	16	1.00
Lehigh	8	20	28	8	8	16	1.00
Southwest Mo. St.	9	18	27	8	9	17	0.91
Maine	12	16	28	5	13	18	0.91
Nicholls St.	12	15	27	13	5	18	0.90
Harvard	9	13	22	7	6	13	0.90
Cal Poly	12	25	37	15	14	29	0.73
Western Ky.	7	23	30	12	10	22	0.67
Ga. Southern	7	15	22	10	4	14	0.67

## PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Southeastern La.	11	576	383	13	66.49	4488	11.72	38	408.0
Sam Houston St.	14	569	358	19	62.92	5019	14.02	42	358.5
Idaho St.	11	575	305	23	53.04	3611	11.84	23	328.3
Hofstra	11	466	282	10	60.52	3596	12.75	32	326.9
Appalachian St.	11	402	264	13	65.67	3549	13.44	26	322.6
Montana St.	11	501	271	9	54.09	3498	12.91	15	318.0
Florida A&M	11	500	306	14	61.20	3370	11.01	21	306.4
Eastern Wash.	13	411	269	11	65.45	3784	14.07	31	291.1
William & Mary	14	473	305	5	64.48	4072	13.35	31	290.9
New Hampshire	13	473	301	13	63.64	3651	12.13	33	280.8
Montana	15	488	331	10	67.83	4163	12.58	36	277.5
San Diego	11	414	248	7	59.90	3029	12.21	25	275.4
Chattanooga	11	391	256	10	65.47	3003	11.73	21	273.0
Southern Utah	11	406	258	15	63.55	2975	11.53	22	270.5
Southeast Mo. St.	11	484	284	15	58.68	2884	10.15	16	262.2
La Salle	10	338	185	16	54.73	2621	14.17	19	262.1
Charleston So.	10	363	220	10	60.61	2599	11.81	22	259.9
Samford	11	473	265	12	56.03	2857	10.78	21	259.7





# 2004 RECAP >>>

## DIVISION RESULTS

### Division I-A >>>

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
<b>ATLANTIC COAST</b>								
Virginia Tech	7	1	230	114	10	3	400	167
Florida State	6	2	208	111	9	3	302	169
Miami	5	3	226	143	9	3	380	204
Virginia	5	3	203	151	8	4	363	212
North Carolina	5	3	230	227	6	6	319	382
Georgia Tech	4	4	142	177	7	5	264	227
Clemson	4	4	166	189	6	5	236	229
NC State	3	5	156	182	5	6	264	218
Maryland	3	5	111	159	5	6	195	220
Wake Forest	1	7	140	219	4	7	230	253
Duke	1	7	123	263	2	9	183	322

### BIG EAST

Pittsburgh	4	2	152	136	8	4	325	288
Boston College	4	2	152	114	9	3	296	203
West Virginia	4	2	165	128	8	4	361	246
Syracuse	4	2	194	170	6	6	287	344
Connecticut	3	3	171	183	8	4	363	260
Rutgers	1	5	139	185	4	7	269	343
Temple	1	5	131	188	2	9	238	399

### BIG TEN

Iowa	7	1	199	125	10	2	292	211
Michigan	7	1	246	182	9	3	370	279
Wisconsin	6	2	167	145	9	3	249	185
Northwestern	5	3	168	198	6	6	295	342
Ohio State	4	4	184	171	8	4	290	219
Purdue	4	4	207	156	7	5	381	206
Michigan State	4	4	253	228	5	7	353	326
Minnesota	3	5	207	199	7	5	361	273
Penn State	2	6	103	124	4	7	195	168
Indiana	1	7	159	258	3	8	262	343
Illinois	1	7	141	248	3	8	240	323

### BIG 12

Colorado	4	4	169	205	8	5	304	332
Iowa State	4	4	148	188	7	5	246	259
Missouri	3	5	142	171	5	6	256	215
Nebraska	3	5	178	243	5	6	275	298
Kansas	2	6	161	198	4	7	262	335
Kansas State	2	6	238	259	4	7	326	337

### SOUTH

Oklahoma	8	0	257	117	12	1	452	219
Texas	7	1	263	145	11	1	423	215
Texas A&M	5	3	255	207	7	5	341	292
Texas Tech	5	3	258	208	8	4	434	314
Oklahoma State	4	4	252	220	7	5	387	301
Baylor	1	7	149	319	3	8	224	396

### CONFERENCE USA

Louisville	8	0	453	155	11	1	597	236
Memphis	5	3	276	254	8	4	430	375
UAB	5	3	242	231	7	5	372	351
Cincinnati	5	3	254	234	7	5	344	320
Southern Miss	5	3	238	218	7	5	309	298
TCU	3	5	235	258	5	6	362	373
Tulane	3	5	212	304	5	6	300	361
USF	3	5	233	267	4	7	271	351
Houston	3	5	197	243	3	8	230	354
Army	2	6	222	275	2	9	260	388
East Carolina	2	6	177	300	2	9	231	439

### MID-AMERICAN

Miami (OH)	7	1	282	158	8	5	407	298
Akron	6	2	237	217	6	5	271	347
Marshall	6	2	238	180	6	5	291	266
Kent State	4	4	269	186	5	6	335	264
Ohio	2	6	148	217	4	7	221	271
Buffalo	2	6	167	247	2	9	197	351
UCF	0	8	136	246	0	11	175	362

### WEST

Toledo	7	1	307	195	9	4	432	404
Northern Illinois	7	1	303	180	9	3	421	304
Bowling Green	6	2	337	180	9	3	532	282
Eastern Michigan	4	4	249	333	4	7	328	458
Central Michigan	3	5	199	286	4	7	260	378
Ball State	2	6	207	279	2	9	225	405
Western Michigan	0	8	179	343	1	10	248	456

### MOUNTAIN WEST

Utah	7	0	351	178	12	0	544	234
New Mexico	5	2	136	125	7	5	244	224
BYU	4	3	200	171	5	6	267	295
Wyoming	3	4	173	196	7	5	315	297
Air Force	3	4	182	220	5	6	326	342
Colorado State	3	4	182	201	4	7	261	325
San Diego State	2	5	138	194	4	7	234	282
UNLV	1	6	140	253	2	9	229	357

### PAC-10

Southern California	8	0	285	117	13	0	496	169
California	7	1	287	103	10	2	441	192
Arizona State	5	3	216	234	9	3	358	294
Oregon State	5	3	210	191	7	5	320	294
UCLA	4	4	252	227	6	6	361	309

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Oregon	4	4	203	211	5	6	282	282
Washington State	3	5	193	262	5	6	275	307
Stanford	2	6	147	197	4	7	242	233
Arizona	2	6	130	240	3	8	164	275
Washington	0	8	114	255	1	10	154	334

### SOUTHEASTERN

Tennessee	7	1	215	199	10	3	378	295
Georgia	6	2	231	133	10	2	335	198
Florida	4	4	251	187	7	5	382	253
S. Carolina	4	4	185	190	6	5	243	229
Kentucky	1	7	106	253	2	9	173	341
Vanderbilt	1	7	133	213	2	9	212	286

### WEST

Auburn	8	0	247	96	13	0	417	147
LSU	6	2	220	131	9	3	344	205
Arkansas	3	5	196	215	5	6	328	270
Alabama	3	5	152	149	6	6	295	189
Ole Miss	3	5	142	200	4	7	215	278
Miss. State	2	6	125	237	3	8	173	280

### SUN BELT

New Texas	7	0	251	153	7	5	309	358
Troy	5	2	197	96	7	5	286	200
New Mexico State	4	3	187	182	5	6	273	355
Louisiana-Monroe	4	3	153	172	5	6	211	303
Middle Tennessee	4	4	202	190	5	6	269	293
Arkansas State	3	4	136	185	3	8	215	365
Louisiana-Lafayette	2	5	145	167	4	7	242	272

### WESTERN ATHLETIC

Boise State	8	0	401	196	11	1	587	308
UTEP	6	2	315	227	8	4	429	301
Fresno State	5	3	338	165	9	3	482	253
Louisiana Tech	5	3	260	202	6	6	308	382
Hawaii	4	4	238	324	5	6	467	499
Nevada	3	5	236	318	5	7	356	413
Tulsa	3	5	272	303	4	8	345	398
SMU	3	5	182	290	3	8	202	420
Rice	2	6	243	321	3	8	279	377
San Jose State	1	7	256	377	2	9	312	469

### INDEPENDENTS

Navy	10	2	334	238				
Notre Dame	6	6	289	289				

### Division I-AA >>>

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA

### ATLANTIC 10

New Hampshire	6	2	278	200	10	3	426	339
Massachusetts	4	4	191	207	6	5	279	256
Northeastern	4	4	246	207	5	6	355	276
Hofstra	3	5	272	241	5	6	401	303
Maine	3	5	254	262	5	6	321	296
Rhode Island	2	6	176	292	4	7	265	355

### SOUTH

James Madison	7	1	201	125	13	2	421	268
William & Mary	7	1	249	180	11	3	486	373
Delaware	7	1	213	178	9	4	344	303
Villanova	3	5	272	205	6	5	330	248
Richmond	2	6	148	227	3	8	198	297
Towson	0	8	99	275	3	8	195	306

### BIG SKY

Montana	6	1	253	171	12	3	535	339
Eastern Wash.	6	1	308	149	9	4	488	323
Portland State	4	3	207	161	7	4	335	223
Montana State	4	3	222	195	6	5	296	285
Northern Arizona	3	4	169	210	4	7	244	314
Idaho State	2	5	145	197	3	8	266	357
Sacramento State	2	5	124	223	3	8	190	415
Weber State	1	6	125	247	1	10	202	375

### BIG SOUTH

Central Carolina	4	0	141	67	10	1	413	176
Liberty	3	1	95	65	6	5	280	275
Gardner-Webb	2	2	74	65	5	6	282	335
Charleston Southern	1	3	59	132	5	5	268	321
VMI	0	4	72	112	0	11	137	327

### GATEWAY

Southern Illinois	7	0	308	88	10	2	511	158
Western Kentucky	6	1	199	124	9	3	350	227
Northern Iowa	5	2	245	130	7	4	351	198
SMS	3	4	179	218	6	5	295	324
Western Illinois	2	5	138	275	4	7	311	409
Illinois State	2	5	182	242	4	7	282	352
Youngstown State	2	5	172	196	4	7	270	272
Indiana State	1	6	141	291	4	7	243	415

### GREAT WEST

Cal Poly	4	1	115	70	9	2	336	183
UC Davis	3	2	140	97	6	4	323	211
North Dakota State	2	3	96	80	8	3	338	150
Southern Utah	2	3	87	125	6	5	294	248



	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Dakota	4	2	172	126	9	2	418	207
oud State	4	2	157	116	8	3	354	200
nesota State	3	3	116	126	6	5	283	263
nesota Duluth	1	5	105	190	4	7	203	300
istiana (N.D.)	0	6	72	182	3	8	207	269

## THEAST-10

ley	8	1	374	122	8	2	418	169
C.W. Post	8	1	312	118	8	3	328	181
thern Conn.	7	2	325	111	8	2	376	138
rimack	7	2	269	173	8	2	306	186
frican Int'l	5	4	166	222	5	4	166	222
int	4	5	141	188	4	5	141	188
it Anselm	3	6	142	271	4	6	166	271
ehill	2	7	95	255	2	7	95	255
umption	1	8	73	255	1	9	79	278
e	0	9	91	273	0	10	97	286

## ORTHERN SUN

ona State	7	0	294	131	7	0	294	131
ndij State	5	2	230	129	5	2	230	129
thern State	5	2	216	180	5	2	216	180
ncordia-St. Paul	4	3	261	192	4	3	261	192
Minnesota State	4	3	162	228	4	3	162	228
nesota-Crookston	2	5	139	198	2	5	139	198
yme State	2	5	133	201	2	5	133	201
ortheast St. (Minn.)	0	7	100	276	0	7	100	276

## ENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

ASTERN	6	0	274	86	11	0	427	306
est Chester	5	1	261	111	10	2	447	256
Southburg	4	2	226	104	7	3	344	193
illersville	3	3	164	159	5	5	261	280
ittstown	2	4	166	193	4	6	233	285
ansfield	1	5	64	238	1	9	134	395
eyney	0	6	32	296	1	10	70	549

## VEBTERN

hippsburg	5	1	173	65	10	2	392	163
linboro	5	1	187	112	9	3	398	259
ndiana (Pa.)	5	1	182	104	7	3	294	230
alifornia (Pa.)	2	4	178	199	6	4	365	259
ippy Rock	2	4	149	158	4	7	272	271
laryon	1	5	92	176	3	8	202	286
ock Haven	1	5	77	224	3	8	172	417

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC

Colorado Mines	8	0	319	146	12	1	515	301
hudson State	6	2	307	218	7	3	378	296
Adams State	6	2	201	132	7	4	225	167
Fort Hays State	5	3	244	219	6	5	295	295
Nebraska-Kearney	4	4	234	220	5	6	298	309
Fort Lewis	3	5	216	240	4	6	261	284
New Mexico Highlands	2	6	140	256	3	8	200	376
Western State	2	6	141	228	3	8	194	335
Mesa State	0	8	130	273	0	11	175	422

## SOUTH ATLANTIC

Carson-Newman	6	1	292	152	9	3	444	332
Wingate	4	3	176	197	8	3	338	265
Catawba	4	3	225	206	7	4	403	280
Tusculum	4	3	178	163	6	4	268	229
Presbyterian	4	3	156	131	6	5	239	230
Mars Hill	3	4	147	178	6	4	291	203
Lenoir-Rhyne	2	5	120	220	3	8	198	290
Newberry	1	6	177	224	5	6	340	287

## SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

Albany State (Ga.)	8	0	322	96	11	1	449	199
Tuskegee	7	1	310	133	10	2	425	208
Miles	6	2	191	133	7	3	233	156
Kentucky State	5	3	173	200	7	4	255	265
Fort Valley State	4	4	248	150	7	4	362	190
Morehouse	3	5	136	255	4	6	187	295
Benedict	2	6	112	205	3	8	133	299
Clark-Atlanta	1	7	177	334	1	9	231	402
Lane	0	8	81	244	2	9	128	283

## WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

Shepherd	7	0	278	84	7	3	320	162
Glenville State	5	2	190	152	5	6	234	325
W. Va. Wesleyan	4	3	224	174	6	5	336	290
Fairmont State	4	3	230	135	5	5	297	243
Concord	4	3	129	151	5	6	203	334
West Virginia State	2	5	108	206	3	8	130	325
WVU Tech	2	5	119	238	2	9	190	433
Charleston (W.Va.)	0	0	109	103	3	7	272	314
West Liberty State	0	7	107	245	2	8	187	304

## INDEPENDENTS

Lincoln	1	9	132	164				
North Greenville	0	6	54	257				
Panhandle State	6	5	290	297				
St. Joseph's	7	4	322	288				
Tiffin	5	6	360	328				
Upper Iowa	2	8	211	326				
Western New Mexico	2	8	213	344				

## Division III &gt;&gt;&gt;

## CONFERENCE OVERALL

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
AMERICAN SOUTHWEST	9	0	416	149	10	1	523	208
Hardin-Simmons	8	1	496	195	13	2	706	337
Mary Hardin-Baylor	7	2	343	296	7	3	375	337
Texas Lutheran	6	3	348	324	7	3	372	337
Howard Payne	4	5	321	381	5	5	352	388
Louisiana College	4	5	238	268	4	6	259	306
Austin College	3	6	150	259	3	7	160	311
Sul Ross State	2	7	182	320	2	8	199	399
McMurry	1	8	214	333	2	8	266	340
Mississippi College	1	8	158	341	1	9	158	350

## ATLANTIC CENTRAL

Salisbury	5	0	201	65	10	1	403	134
Wesley	4	1	136	69	8	2	303	136
Brockport	3	2	156	107	6	4	327	229
Buffalo St.	2	3	73	127	4	6	141	259
Frostburg St.	1	4	40	87	2	8	127	223
Apprentice	0	5	45	208	3	7	131	260

## CENTENNIAL

Johns Hopkins	4	2	102	80	9	2	259	165
Franklin & Marshall	4	2	129	95	8	3	291	188
Muhlenberg	4	2	86	34	8	3	184	113
McDaniel	4	2	124	48	6	4	197	131
Dickinson	4	2	74	77	6	4	171	146
Gettysburg	1	5	57	154	1	9	105	286
Ursinus	0	6	55	139	1	9	166	254

## COLLEGE CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS &amp; WISCONSIN

Carthage	6	1	192	132	11	2	369	233
Wheaton (Ill.)	6	1	276	164	10	2	465	253
Augustana (Ill.)	5	2	228	152	7	3	318	212
North Central	4	3	172	128	7	3	275	180
Millikin	4	3	189	172	5	5	299	253
Illinois Wesleyan	2	5	189	220	3	7	234	274
Elmhurst	1	6	149	288	4	6	294	343
North Park	0	7	107	246	1	9	157	335

## EMPIRE EIGHT

St. John Fisher	5	1	236	141	10	2	455	277
Ithaca	5	1	223	81	9	2	420	150
Springfield	4	2	206	123	8	2	401	170
Alfred	3	3	130	126	8	3	256	163
Norwich	3	3	137	192	7	4	241	287
Utica	1	5	71	199	3	7	160	293
Hartwick	0	6	72	213	1	8	151	289

## HEARTLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

Mount St. Joseph	6	0	197	84	10	1	299	147
Hanover	5	1	151	70	6	4	255	231
Franklin	5	1	179	138	5	5	338	332
Bluffton	3	3	136	116	5	5	210	221
Anderson	3	3	145	136	5	5	260	257
Defiance	1	5	60	175	1	9	104	307
Manchester	0	6	48	197	0	10	110	408

## ILLINI-BADGER

Lakeland	6	1	290	90	7	3	379	163
Concordia (Wis.)	6	1	225	70	7	3	318	210
Aurora	6	1	297	62	6	4	329	175
MacMurray	4	3	198	181	7	3	329	337
Greenville	3	4	109	204	3	7	115	342
Eureka	2	5	109	165	3	7	157	248
Benedictine	1	6	75	333	1	9	89	469
Concordia (Ill.)	0	7	59	257	0	10	83	369

## IOWA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

Wartburg College	6	2	299	113	8	3	276	186
Coe College	6	2	228	160	7	3	282	193
Buena Vista	5	3	146	161	6	4	237	216
Luther College	5	3	235	186	6	4	310	224
Central College	5	3	199	117	6	4	227	165
Simpson College	4	4	155	135	5	5	185	176
Loras College	3	5	165	171	4	6	222	194
Cornell College	1	7	93	241	2	8	142	305
Dubuque	1	7	61	197	2	8	102	210

## LIBERTY

Hobart	7	0	270	116	9	2	364	222
Union	6	1	208	119	6	3	239	173
Rensselaer	4	3	175	182	5	4	224	198
Rochester	3	4	193	175	4	6	275	253
Merchant Marine	3	4	112	186	3	7	153	254
St. Lawrence	3	4	137	195	4	6	197	243
Worcester Polytechnic	2	5	189	214	5	5	311	223
Coast Guard	0	7	103	200	1	8	179	231

## MICHIGAN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Alma	6	1	222	133	8	3	368	237
Albion	5	2	232	140	7	3	276	218
Hope	5	2	203	145	6	4	266	245
Olivet	5	2	268	188	8	2	458	290
Adrian	3	4	123	121	6	4	211	181
Tri-State	2	5	131	226	2	8	169	330
Wisconsin Lutheran	2	5	125	233	2	8	146	333
Kalamazoo	0	7	86	204	1	9	153	370

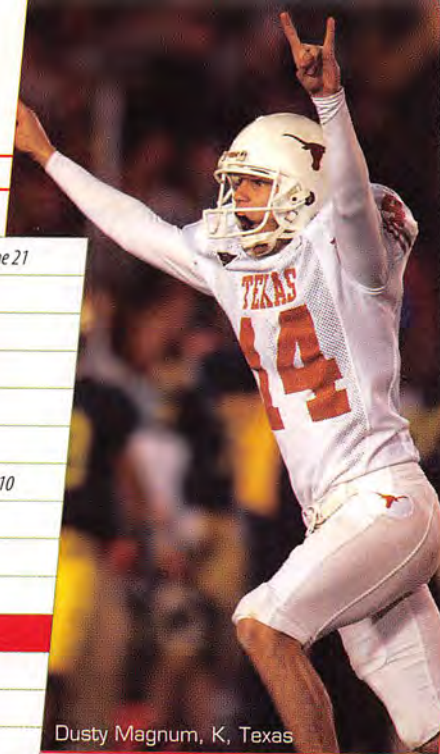


# 2004 RECAP >>>

## DIVISION RESULTS

### Bowl Games

Alamo Bowl	Ohio State 33, Oklahoma State 7	Insight Bowl	Oregon State 38, Notre Dame 21
Capital One Bowl	Iowa 30, LSU 25	Las Vegas Bowl	Wyoming 24, UCLA 21
Champs Sports Bowl	Georgia Tech 51, Syracuse 14	Liberty Bowl	Louisville 44, Boise State 40
Continental Tire Bowl	Boston College 37, North Carolina 24	MPC Computers Bowl	Fresno State 37, Virginia 34
Cotton Bowl	Tennessee 38, Texas A&M 7	Motor City Bowl	Connecticut 39, Toledo 10
Emerald Bowl	Navy 34, New Mexico 19	Music City Bowl	Minnesota 20, Alabama 16
Fiesta Bowl	Utah 35, Pittsburgh 7	New Orleans Bowl	Southern Miss 31, North Texas 10
Fort Worth Bowl	Cincinnati 32, Marshall 14	Orange Bowl	USC 55, Oklahoma 19
Gator Bowl	Florida State 30, West Virginia 18	Outback Bowl	Georgia 24, Wisconsin 21
GMAC Bowl	Bowling Green 52, Memphis 35	Peach Bowl	Miami 27, Florida 10
Hawaii Bowl	Hawaii 59, UAB 40	Rose Bowl	Texas 38, Michigan 37
Holiday Bowl	Texas Tech 45, California 31	Silicon Valley	Northern Illinois 34, Troy 21
Houston Bowl	Colorado 33, UTEP 28	Sugar Bowl	Auburn 16, Virginia Tech 13
Independence Bowl	Iowa State 17, Miami (Ohio) 13	Sun Bowl	Arizona State 27, Purdue 23



Dusty Magnum, K, Texas

### Division I-AA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND	
Eastern Washington 35	Southern Illinois 31
Sam Houston State 54	Western Kentucky 24
Montana 56	Northwestern State 7
New Hampshire 27	Georgia Southern 23
William & Mary 42	Hampton 35
Delaware 28	Lafayette 14
James Madison 14	Lehigh 13
Furman 49	Jacksonville State 7
QUARTERFINALS	
Sam Houston State 35	Eastern Washington 34
Montana 47	New Hampshire 17
William & Mary 44	Delaware 38
James Madison 14	Furman 13
SEMIFINALS	
Montana 34	Sam Houston State 13
James Madison 48	William & Mary 34
CHAMPIONSHIP	
James Madison 31	Montana 21

### NAIA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND	
Carroll (Mont.) 24	Mary (N.D.) 14
Dickinson State (N.D.) 30	Montana Tech 13
MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.) 21	McKendree (Ill.) 20
Georgetown (Ky.) 35	Trinity International (Ill.) 21
Azusa Pacific (Calif.) 16	NW Oklahoma State 0
Sioux Falls (S.D.) 72	Tabor (Kan.) 11
St. Francis (Ind.) 53	Morningside (Iowa) 3
Hastings (Neb.) 20	Lindenwood (Mo.) 19
QUARTERFINALS	
St. Francis 48	Hastings 17
Georgetown 46	MNU 27
Carroll 56	Dickinson State 17
Azusa Pacific 24	Sioux Falls 3
SEMIFINALS	
St. Francis 12	Georgetown 7
Carroll 14	Azusa Pacific 10
CHAMPIONSHIP	
Carroll	St. Francis 13

### Division II Playoffs

FIRST ROUND	
North Dakota 20	St. Cloud State 17
Grand Valley St. 16	Winona State 13
Colorado Mines 52	Midwestern State 33
Texas A&M-Kingsville 40	Southeastern Oklahoma 30
West Chester 35	C.W. Post 3
Edinboro 47	Bentley 44
Arkansas Tech 24	Catawba 20
Carson-Newman 35	Fayetteville State 14
SECOND ROUND	
North Dakota 20	Michigan Tech 3
Grand Valley State 10	Northwood 7
Pittsburg State 70	Colorado Mines 35
Northwest Missouri St. 34	Texas A&M-Kingsville 14
West Chester 33	Shippensburg 28
East Stroudsburg 36	Edinboro 32
Albany State (Ga.) 42	Arkansas Tech 24
Valdosta State 38	Carson-Newman 12
QUARTERFINALS	
North Dakota 19	Grand Valley State 15
Pittsburg State 50	Northwest Missouri St. 36
West Chester 48	East Stroudsburg 38
Valdosta State 38	Albany State (Ga.) 24
SEMIFINALS	
Pittsburg State 31	North Dakota 19
Valdosta State 45	West Chester 21
CHAMPIONSHIP	
Valdosta State 36	Pittsburg State 31

### I-A Coaching Changes for 2005

School	Former Coach	New Coach
Brigham Young	Gary Crowton	Bronco Mendenhall
East Carolina	John Thompson	Skip Holtz
Florida	Ron Zook	Urban Meyer
Illinois	Ron Turner	Ron Zook
Indiana	Gerry DiNardo	Terry Hoepfner
LSU	Nick Saban	Les Miles
Marshall	Bob Pruett	Mark Snyder
Miami (Ohio)	Terry Hoepfner	Shane Montgomery
Mississippi	David Cutcliffe	Ed Orgeron
New Mexico State	Tony Samuel	Hal Mumme
Notre Dame	Tyrone Willingham	Charlie Weis
Ohio	Brian Knorr	Frank Solich

### Division III Playoffs

FIRST ROUND	
Wis.-La Crosse 37	St. Norbert 23
Occidental 28	Willamette 14
Concordia-Morehead 28	Wartburg 14
Hobart 35	Curry 16
St. John Fisher 31	Muhlenberg 3
Delaware Valley 21	Shenandoah 17
Mary Hardin-Baylor 32	Trinity (Texas) 13
Christopher Newport 35	Salisbury 24
Wash. & Jeff. 55	Bridgewater 48
Wheaton (Ill.) 31	Mt. St. Joseph 7
Carthage 31	Alma 28
Wooster 41	Aurora 34
SECOND ROUND	
Linfield 52	Wis.-La Crosse 14
Occidental 42	Concordia-Morehead 40
Rowan 45	Hobart 14
Delaware Valley 26	St. John Fisher 20
Mary Hardin-Baylor 42	Hardin-Simmons 28
Wash. & Jeff. 24	Christopher Newport 14
Mount Union 27	Wheaton (Ill.) 6
Carthage 14	Wooster 7
QUARTERFINALS	
Linfield 56	Occidental 27
Rowan 56	Delaware Valley 7
Mary Hardin-Baylor 52	Wash. & Jeff. 16
Mount Union 38	Carthage 20
SEMIFINALS	
Linfield 52	Rowan 0
Mary Hardin-Baylor 38	Mount Union 35
CHAMPIONSHIP	
Linfield 28	Mary Hardin-Baylor 21

School	Former Coach	New Coach
Oklahoma State	Les Miles	Mike Gundy
Pittsburgh	Walt Harris	Dave Wannstedt
San Jose State	Fitz Hill	Dick Tomey
South Carolina	Lou Holtz	Steve Spurrier
Stanford	Buddy Teevens	Walt Harris
Syracuse	Paul Pasqualoni	Greg Robinson
UNLV	John Robinson	Mike Sanford
Utah	Urban Meyer	Kyle Whittingham
Utah State	Mick Dennehy	Brent Guy
Washington	Keith Gilbertson	Tyrone Willingham
Western Michigan	Gary Darnell	Bill Cubit



# SUMMER FUN



## HAMMOCK

This comfortable woven hammock is the perfect place to relax in your backyard. The roomy hammock features a removable pillow, a bed that measures 55" x 82", and a total length of 13 feet. Make this great looking hammock the centerpiece of your relaxation this summer! Hammock is available for the following teams:

**NFL:** Packers, Steelers, Jets, Raiders, Eagles **NCAA:** Georgia, Ohio State, West Virginia - \$120 plus S/H

## POOL FLOAT/AIR MATTRESS

This hot new item doubles as both a pool float and an air mattress when you need an extra bed. This tough float measures 70" x 30" with a built in pillow, and it comes with built in grommets for wall hanging when not in use. Place your order today so you don't miss the pool season. The float is available for the following NFL and NCAA teams: **NFL:** Cowboys, Packers, Steelers, Dolphins, Raiders, Patriots, Redskins, Eagles, Ravens **NCAA:** Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Nebraska, Michigan, Clemson, Oklahoma, Penn State, South Carolina, Michigan St., Ohio State, LSU, Texas Tech - \$49.99 plus S/H

## Order Form

ITEM	QTY.	TEAM	PRICE
Hammock			
Pool Float			
Subtotal			
S/H			
Total			

Shipping/Handling: \$10 for first item; \$5 for each additional item  
Tax: NC residents add 7.5% sales tax

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State/Zip	_____
Phone #	_____
<b>Credit Card Information:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
Exp. date	_____
Card #	_____

### Send Checks Made Payable To:

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120 West Morehead Street, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28202

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

**Street & Smith's**  
Sports Gear

PHONE 1-800-380-7404 • FAX 1-800-486-1513



**ALABAMA A&M** NORMAL, AL

S. 3	@TENNESSEE STATE	7-42
S. 10	@GRAMBLING STATE	21-9
S. 17	Mississippi Valley State	30-20
S. 24	Allen	
O. 1	Texas Southern	22-3
O. 8	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	24-33
O. 22	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	10-24
O. 29	@ALABAMA STATE	20-24
N. 5	Jackson State	22-6
N. 12	@ALCORN STATE	27-21
N. 19	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	42-6

◆ At Birmingham, AL

Coach: Anthony Jones Colors: Maroon & White  
Nickname: Bulldogs 2004 Record: 7-4**ALABAMA STATE** MONTGOMERY, AL

S. 3	South Carolina State	◆
S. 10	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	55-15
S. 17	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	21-14
S. 24	Alcorn State	41-8
O. 1	Southern University	41-42
O. 8	@JACKSON STATE	28-6
O. 15	Prairie View A&M	42-20
O. 29	Alabama A&M	24-20
N. 5	Grambling State	37-23
N. 12	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	34-6
N. 24	Tuskegee	17-27

◆ At Birmingham, AL

★ At Mobile, AL

Coach: Charles Cox III Colors: Black & Old Gold  
Nickname: Hornets 2004 Record: 10-2**ALBANY** ALBANY, NY

S. 10	Hofstra	0-45
S. 17	@MASSACHUSETTS	
S. 24	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	23-28
O. 1	@MAINE	
O. 8	Stony Brook	27-22
O. 15	Sacred Heart	23-6
O. 22	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	38-0
O. 29	@WAGNER	35-27
N. 5	Robert Morris	7-34
N. 12	@MONMOUTH	24-25
N. 19	@FORDHAM	0-14

Coach: Bob Ford

Colors:

Nickname: Great Danes 2004 Record: 4-7

**ALCORN STATE** ALCORN STATE, MS

S. 3	Grambling State	34-23
S. 10	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	33-27
S. 17	Langston	
S. 24	@ALABAMA STATE	8-41
O. 1	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	
O. 8	Prairie View A&M	26-15
O. 15	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	30-0
O. 22	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	20-23
N. 5	Mississippi Valley State	31-30
N. 12	Alabama A&M	21-27
N. 19	@JACKSON STATE	16-14

◆ At Houston, TX

Coach: Dr. Johnny Thomas Colors: Alcorn Purple & Old Gold  
Nickname: Braves 2004 Record: 7-4**APPALACHIAN STATE** BOONE, NC

S. 3	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	49-21
S. 10	@KANSAS	
S. 17	Coastal Carolina	
S. 24	@CITADEL	28-14
O. 8	@FURMAN	30-29
O. 15	Georgia Southern	7-54
O. 22	@WOFFORD	38-17
O. 29	Chattanooga	56-59
N. 5	@LSU	
N. 12	Western Carolina	27-30
N. 19	@ELON	48-7

Coach: Jerry Moore

Colors: Black &amp; Gold

Nickname: Mountaineers 2004 Record: 6-5

**ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** PINE BLUFF, AR

S. 3	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	49-14
S. 10	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	14-27
S. 17	Alabama State	14-21
S. 24	Tusculum	
O. 1	@ALCORN STATE	
O. 15	Grambling State	41-22
O. 22	@ALABAMA A&M	24-10
O. 29	@JACKSON STATE	35-42
N. 5	Prairie View A&M	24-23
N. 12	Southern University	
N. 19	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	42-0

◆ At St. Louis, MO

Coach: Maurice Forte Colors: Black & Gold  
Nickname: Golden Lions 2004 Record: 6-3**AUSTIN PEAY** CLARKSVILLE, TN

S. 3	@CHARLESTON UNIV	28-20
S. 10	Cumberland University	
S. 17	@DAYTON	0-40
S. 24	@DRAKE	
O. 1	Valparaiso	14-24
O. 8	@DAVIDSON	20-17 (OT)
O. 15	@MOREHEAD STATE	14-28
O. 22	Jacksonville	14-31
O. 29	Missouri-Rolla	
N. 5	St. Joseph's (IN)	12-50
N. 12	@MURRAY STATE	

Coach: Carroll McCray

Colors: Red &amp; White

Nickname: Governors 2004 Record: 2-9

**BETHUNE-COOKMAN** DAYTONA BEACH, FL

S. 3	Elizabeth City State	
S. 10	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	27-14
S. 17	South Carolina State	◆
S. 24	@NORFOLK STATE	43-3
O. 1	Morgan State	51-21
O. 8	@DELAWARE STATE	45-16
O. 15	@SAVANNAH STATE	
O. 29	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	45-17
N. 5	Hampton	17-24
N. 12	@HOWARD	7-10
N. 19	Florida A&M	58-52 (OT)

◆ At Jacksonville, FL

★ At Orlando, FL

Coach: Alvin Wyatt Colors: Maroon & Gold  
Nickname: Wildcats 2004 Record: 6-4**BROWN** PROVIDENCE, RI

S. 17	@GEORGETOWN	
S. 24	@HARVARD	34-35
O. 1	Rhode Island	20-13
O. 8	Fordham	27-20 (OT)
O. 15	Princeton	10-24
O. 22	@CORNELL	21-17
O. 29	Pennsylvania	16-20
N. 5	@YALE	24-17
N. 12	Dartmouth	7-20
N. 19	@COLUMBIA	33-21

Coach: Phil Estes

Colors: Brown, Red &amp; White

Nickname: Bears 2004 Record: 6-4

**BUCKNELL** LEWISBURG, PA

S. 3	Georgetown	35-19
S. 10	@STONY BROOK	
S. 17	@CORNELL	15-9
O. 1	Marist	
O. 8	@PENNSYLVANIA	25-32 (OT)
O. 15	Villanova	14-20
O. 22	Lehigh	17-40
O. 29	@LAFAYETTE	13-14
N. 5	@FORDHAM	21-20
N. 12	@COLGATE	42-7
N. 19	Holy Cross	42-27

Coach: Tim Landis

Colors: Blue &amp; Orange

Nickname: Bison 2004 Record: 7-4

**BUTLER** INDIANAPOLIS, IN

S. 3	Albion	12-13
S. 10	@TIFFIN	3-48
S. 17	@ROBERT MORRIS	
S. 24	@JACKSONVILLE	
O. 1	Morehead State	7-15
O. 8	@SAN DIEGO	12-41
O. 15	Valparaiso	26-31
O. 22	St. Joseph's (IN)	0-34
O. 29	@DRAKE	6-43
N. 5	Dayton	10-49
N. 12	Missouri-Rolla	

Coach: Kit Cartwright

Colors: Blue &amp; White

Nickname: Bulldogs 2004 Record: 1-10

**CAL POLY** SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

S. 3	@TROY	
S. 10	Sacramento State	58-13
S. 17	Montana State	27-14
S. 24	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	14-7
O. 1	@NORTHERN COLORADO	31-0
O. 8	North Dakota State	13-10
O. 22	@MONTANA	
O. 29	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	33-36
N. 5	Eastern Washington	21-38
N. 12	Southern Utah	24-17
N. 19	Idaho State	35-20

Coach: Rich Ellerson

Colors: Green &amp; Gold

Nickname: Mustangs 2004 Record: 9-2

**CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE** NEW BRITAIN, CT

S. 3	@COLGATE	
S. 10	Rhode Island	7-39
S. 17	@MARIST	28-13
S. 24	Albany	28-23
O. 1	St. Peter's	30-15
O. 8	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	35-17
O. 15	Robert Morris	34-21
O. 22	@WAGNER	28-21 (OT)
O. 29	Monmouth	6-9
N. 5	@SACRED HEART	27-6
N. 12	@STONY BROOK	38-28

Coach: Tom Masella

Colors: Blue &amp; White

Nickname: Blue Devils 2004 Record: 8-2

**CHARLESTON SOUTHERN** CHARLESTON, SC

S. 3	@CITADEL	
S. 10	Presbyterian	14-19
S. 17	Jacksonville	38-3
S. 24	@NORTH GREENVILLE	55-7
O. 1	Howard	6-24
O. 8	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	25-24
O. 15	@NORTH GREENVILLE	55-7
O. 22	Savannah State	
N. 5	@GARDNER-WEBB	0-18
N. 12	Liberty	6-34
N. 19	Coastal Carolina	28-56

Coach: Jay Mills

Colors: Blue &amp; Gold

Nickname: Buccaneers 2004 Record: 5-5

**CHATTANOOGA** CHATTANOOGA, TN

S. 3	Tennessee Tech	34-52
S. 10	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	20-65
S. 17	@MEMPHIS	21-52
S. 24	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	17-51
O. 1	Wofford	21-56
O. 8	@LIBERTY	40-43
O. 15	@ELON	26-35
O. 22	Western Carolina	27-24
O. 29	@APPALACHIAN STATE	59-56
N. 5	Citadel	24-44
N. 19	Furman	31-51

Coach: Rodney Allison

Colors: Navy Blue &amp; Gold

Nickname: Mocs 2004 Record: 2-9

**THE CITADEL** CHARLESTON, SC

S. 3	Charleston Southern	
S. 10	@FLORIDA STATE	
S. 24	Appalachian State	14-28
O. 1	@WESTERN CAROLINA	17-0
O. 8	@MISSISSIPPI	
O. 15	Furman	14-33
O. 22	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	7-42
O. 29	Wofford	17-38
N. 5	@CHATTANOOGA	44-24
N. 12	Elon	7-24
N. 19	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	

Coach: John Zernelt

Colors: Blue &amp; White

Nickname: Bulldogs 2004 Record: 3-7

**COASTAL CAROLINA** CONWAY, SC

S. 3	@ELON	
S. 10	James Madison	
S. 17	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
S. 24	Delaware State	
O. 1	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	31-19
O. 15	Gardner-Webb	33-6
O. 20	@LIBERTY	33-6
O. 29	Virginia Military	21-14
N. 5	@SAVANNAH STATE	52-14
N. 12	Mansfield	
N. 19	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	56-28

Coach: David Bennett

Colors: Coastal teal, bronze

Nickname: Chanticleers 2004 Record: 10-1

**COLGATE** HAMILTON, NY

S. 3	Central Connecticut State	
S. 10	Massachusetts	20-30
S. 17	@DARTMOUTH	17-15
O. 1	Cornell	10-6
O. 8	@PRINCETON	29-26
O. 15	Fordham	40-28
O. 22	@HOLY CROSS	41-7
O. 29	Lehigh	14-21
N. 5	@LAFAYETTE	22-19
N. 12	Bucknell	7-42
N. 19	@GEORGETOWN	33-0

Coach: Dick Biddle

Colors: Maroon &amp; White

Nickname: Raiders 2004 Record: 7-4

**COLUMBIA** NEW YORK, NY

S. 17	@FORDHAM	14-17
S. 24	Duquesne	
O. 1	@PRINCETON	26-27 (OT)
O. 8	@LAFAYETTE	14-35
O. 15	Pennsylvania	3-14
O. 22	@DARTMOUTH	9-6
O. 29	Yale	14-21
N. 5	Harvard	0-38
N. 12	@CORNELL	26-32
N. 19	Brown	21-33

Coach: Bob Shoop

Colors: Columbia Blue &amp; White

Nickname: Lions 2004 Record: 1-9

**CORNELL** ITHACA, NY

S. 17	Bucknell	9-15
S. 24	@YALE	19-7
O. 1	@COLGATE	6-10
O. 8	Harvard	24-34
O. 15	Georgetown	
O. 22	Brown	17-21
O. 29	@PRINCETON	21-20
N. 5	@DARTMOUTH	14-7
N. 12	Columbia	32-26
N. 19	@PENNSYLVANIA	14-20

Coach: Jim Knowles

Colors: Red &amp; White

Nickname: Big Red 2004 Record: 4-6

**DARTMOUTH** HANOVER, NH

S. 17	Colgate	15-17
S. 24	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	24-45
O. 1	Pennsylvania	0-35
O. 8	@YALE	14-24
O. 15	@HOLY CROSS	0-24
O. 22	Columbia	6-9
O. 29	@HARVARD	12-13
N. 5	Cornell	7-14
N. 12	@BROWN	20-7
N. 19	Princeton	10-17

Coach: John Lyons

Colors: Dartmouth Green &amp; White

Nickname: Big Green 2004 Record: 1-9

**DAVIDSON** DAVIDSON, NC

S. 3	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	
S. 10	Greensboro	
S. 17	Lenoir-Rhyne	3-26
S. 24	@VALPARAISO	
O. 1	Drake	
O. 8	Austin Peay	17-20 (OT)
O. 15	@JACKSONVILLE	26-29
O. 22	@MOREHEAD STATE	14-10
O. 29	Dayton	27-45
N. 12	@GEORGETOWN	0-23

Coach: Michael Toop

Colors: Red &amp; Black

Nickname: Wildcats 2004 Record: 2-7

**DAYTON** DAYTON, OH

S. 3	@TIFFIN	38-9
S. 10	Wittenberg	
S. 17	Austin Peay	40-0
S. 24	@MOREHEAD STATE	28-0
O. 1	Jacksonville	
O. 8	@DRAKE	6-13
O. 15	San Diego	35-38
O. 22	Valparaiso	38-7
O. 29	@DAVIDSON	45-27
N. 5	@BUTLER	49-10
N. 12	@DUQUESNE	

Coach: Mike Kelly

Colors: Red &amp; Blue

Nickname: Flyers 2004 Record: 7-3

**DELAWARE** NEWARK, DE

10	Lehigh	
17	West Chester	24-6
24	Holy Cross	
1	@TOWSON	21-17
8	Hofstra	20-19
15	Richmond	23-14
22	James Madison	13-20
29	@MAINE	43-38
5	Massachusetts	21-7
12	@WILLIAM & MARY	38-44 (OT)
19	@VILLANOVA	41-35



cores at right indicate 2004 results

**DELAWARE STATE DOVER, DE**

S. 3	@FLORIDA A&M	
S. 10	Millersville	
S. 17	@JAMES MADISON	
S. 24	@COASTAL CAROLINA	
O. 1	@HAMPTON	28-23
O. 8	Bethune-Cookman	16-45
O. 15	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	15-6
O. 22	Morgan State	30-34
O. 29	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	14-28
N. 12	Norfolk State	33-28
N. 19	Howard	32-13

**Coach:** Al Lavan **Colors:** Columbia Blue & Red  
**Nickname:** Hornets **2004 Record:** 4-7

**DRAKE DES MOINES, IA**

S. 1	@NORTHERN IOWA	
S. 10	@ILLINOIS STATE	
S. 17	@WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE	23-33
S. 24	Austin Peay	
O. 1	@DAVIDSON	
O. 8	Dayton	13-6
O. 22	@SAN DIEGO	41-38
O. 29	Butler	43-6
N. 5	@VALPARAISO	37-10
N. 19	Waldorf	39-7

**Coach:** Rob Ash **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Bulldogs **2004 Record:** 10-2

**DUQUESNE PITTSBURGH, PA**

S. 3	Robert Morris	14-34
S. 10	Fordham	34-41
S. 17	@PENNSYLVANIA	
S. 24	@COLUMBIA	
O. 8	@GEORGETOWN	45-7
O. 15	St. Peter's	34-8
O. 22	@MARIST	7-3
O. 29	@IONA	42-14
N. 5	La Salle	56-35
N. 12	Dayton	
N. 19	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	

**Coach:** Greg Gatuso **Colors:** Red & Blue  
**Nickname:** Dukes **2004 Record:** 7-3

**EASTERN ILLINOIS CHARLESTON, IL**

S. 1	@INDIANA STATE	30-33 (OT)
S. 10	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S. 17	Illinois State	31-35
S. 24	Samford	28-14
O. 8	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	35-28
O. 15	Eastern Kentucky	6-49
O. 22	@MURRAY STATE	24-9
O. 29	Tennessee-Martin	14-32
N. 5	@TENNESSEE STATE	34-24
N. 12	Tennessee Tech	37-40 (OT)
N. 19	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	21-31

**Coach:** Bob Spoo **Colors:** Blue & Gray  
**Nickname:** Panthers **2004 Record:** 5-6

**EASTERN KENTUCKY RICHMOND, KY**

S. 3	Appalachian State	21-49
S. 10	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	8-21
S. 17	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
S. 24	Tennessee Tech	19-18
O. 1	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	23-30
O. 8	Samford	39-36 (OT)
O. 15	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	49-6
O. 22	Southeast Missouri State	38-13
N. 5	@MURRAY STATE	16-19 (OT)
N. 12	Tennessee-Martin	41-14
N. 19	@TENNESSEE STATE	29-14

**Coach:** Danny Hope **Colors:** Maroon & White  
**Nickname:** Colonels **2004 Record:** 6-5

**EASTERN WASHINGTON CHENEY, WA**

S. 3	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S. 17	Western Oregon	
S. 24	@IDAHO STATE	47-22
O. 1	Portland State	41-21
O. 8	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	45-14
O. 15	@MONTANA	28-31
O. 22	Weber State	51-7
O. 29	@SACRAMENTO STATE	45-10
N. 5	@CAL POLY	38-21
N. 12	Montana State	51-44 (OT)
N. 19	California-Davis	

**Coach:** Paul Wulff **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Eagles **2004 Record:** 9-4

**ELON COLLEGE, NC**

S. 3	Coastal Carolina	
S. 10	@SAVANNAH STATE	
S. 17	Presbyterian	
S. 24	North Carolina A&T	17-19
O. 1	Georgia Southern	14-48
O. 8	@WOFFORD	13-27
O. 15	Chattanooga	35-26
O. 22	@FURMAN	0-10
O. 29	@WESTERN CAROLINA	7-28
N. 12	@CITADEL	24-7
N. 19	Appalachian State	7-48

**Coach:** Paul Hamilton **Colors:** Maroon & Gold  
**Nickname:** Phoenix **2004 Record:** 3-8

**FLORIDA A&M TALLAHASSEE, FL**

S. 3	Delaware State	
S. 10	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
S. 17	Howard	
S. 24	Tennessee State	21-15
O. 1	Florida International	23-40
O. 15	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	
O. 22	Norfolk State	
O. 29	@MORGAN STATE	
N. 5	North Carolina A&T	
N. 12	@HAMPTON	
N. 19	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	52-58 (OT)

◆ At Atlanta, GA ◆ At Miami, FL  
 ◆ At Orlando, FL  
**Coach:** Billy Joe **Colors:** Orange & Green  
**Nickname:** Rattlers **2004 Record:** 3-8

**FORDHAM BRONX, NY**

S. 3	@RHODE ISLAND	36-37
S. 10	@DUQUESNE	41-34
S. 17	Columbia	17-14
S. 24	@LAFAYETTE	20-35
O. 8	@BROWN	20-27 (OT)
O. 15	@COLGATE	28-40
O. 22	@GEORGETOWN	36-6
O. 29	Holy Cross	42-35
N. 5	Bucknell	20-21
N. 12	Lehigh	14-21
N. 19	Albany	14-0

**Coach:** Ed Foley **Colors:** Maroon & White  
**Nickname:** Rams **2004 Record:** 5-6

**FURMAN GREENVILLE, SC**

S. 1	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	49-7
S. 10	@WESTERN CAROLINA	31-10
S. 17	Samford	45-10
S. 24	Hofstra	
O. 1	Gardner-Webb	38-6
O. 8	Appalachian State	29-30
O. 15	@CITADEL	33-14
O. 22	Elon	10-0
N. 5	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	29-22
N. 12	Wofford	31-24
N. 19	@CHATTANOOGA	51-31

**Coach:** Bobby Lamb **Colors:** Purple & White  
**Nickname:** Paladins **2004 Record:** 10-3

**GARDNER-WEBB BOILING SPRINGS, NC**

S. 3	Union	
S. 8	Belhaven College	
S. 24	Tennessee-Martin	
O. 1	@FURMAN	6-38
O. 8	Hampton	25-48
O. 15	@COASTAL CAROLINA	19-31
O. 22	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	28-17
O. 29	Liberty	9-17
N. 5	Charleston Southern	18-0
N. 12	@SAVANNAH STATE	
N. 19	Wofford	17-49

**Coach:** Steve Patton **Colors:** Scarlet, White & Black  
**Nickname:** Runnin' Bulldogs **2004 Record:** 5-6

**GEORGETOWN WASHINGTON, DC**

S. 3	@BUCKNELL	19-35
S. 10	@HOLY CROSS	28-31 (OT)
S. 17	Brown	
S. 24	@STONY BROOK	
O. 1	Lafayette	6-17
O. 8	Duquesne	7-45
O. 15	@CORNELL	
O. 22	Fordham	6-36
N. 5	@LEHIGH	18-49
N. 12	Davidson	23-0
N. 19	Colgate	0-33

**Coach:** Bob Benson **Colors:** Blue & Gray  
**Nickname:** Hoyas **2004 Record:** 3-8

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN STATESBORO, GA**

S. 3	@NORTHEASTERN	
S. 10	McNeese State	
S. 17	@WOFFORD	58-14
S. 24	Chattanooga	51-17
O. 1	@ELON	48-14
O. 8	Western Carolina	38-16
O. 15	@APPALACHIAN STATE	54-7
O. 22	Citadel	42-7
O. 29	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	63-7
N. 5	Furman	22-29
N. 12	Morehead State	

**Coach:** Mike Sewak **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Eagles **2004 Record:** 9-3

**GRAMBLING STATE GRAMBLING, LA**

S. 3	@ALCORN STATE	23-34
S. 10	Alabama A&M	9-21
S. 17	@WASHINGTON STATE	
O. 1	Prairie View A&M	53-32
O. 8	Mississippi Valley State	34-26
O. 15	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	22-41
O. 22	@JACKSON STATE	23-32
O. 29	Texas Southern	28-10
N. 5	@ALABAMA STATE	23-37
N. 26	Southern University	24-13

◆ At Seattle, WA ◆ At Dallas, TX  
 ◆ At New Orleans, LA  
**Coach:** Melvin Spears **Colors:** Black & Gold  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 6-5

**HAMPTON HAMPTON, VA**

S. 3	Jackson State	38-19
S. 10	@HOWARD	47-14
S. 17	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	51-24
S. 24	Morgan State	49-37
O. 1	Delaware State	23-28
O. 8	@GARDNER-WEBB	48-25
O. 15	@NORFOLK STATE	58-10
O. 22	South Carolina State	52-36
N. 5	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	24-17
N. 12	Florida A&M	
N. 19	Savannah State	58-7

◆ At Detroit, MI  
**Coach:** Joe Taylor **Colors:** Royal Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Pirates **2004 Record:** 10-2

**HARVARD BOSTON, MA**

S. 17	@HOLY CROSS	35-0
S. 24	Brown	35-34
O. 1	Lehigh	
O. 8	@CORNELL	34-24
O. 15	@LAFAYETTE	38-23
O. 22	Princeton	39-14
O. 29	Dartmouth	13-12
N. 5	@COLUMBIA	38-0
N. 12	Pennsylvania	31-10
N. 19	@YALE	35-3

**Coach:** Tim Murphy **Colors:** Crimson  
**Nickname:** Crimson **2004 Record:** 10-0

**HOFSTRA HEMPSTEAD, NY**

S. 10	@ALBANY	45-0
S. 17	Stony Brook	61-21
S. 24	@FURMAN	
O. 1	James Madison	21-31
O. 8	@DELAWARE	19-20
O. 15	Maine	31-20
O. 22	@RICHMOND	48-17
O. 29	@RHODE ISLAND	62-43
N. 5	New Hampshire	27-33
N. 12	@NORTHEASTERN	34-37 (OT)
N. 19	Massachusetts	30-40

**Coach:** Joe Gardi **Colors:** Blue, White, & Gold  
**Nickname:** Pride **2004 Record:** 5-6

**HOLY CROSS WORCESTER, MA**

S. 3	Sacred Heart	
S. 10	Georgetown	31-28 (OT)
S. 17	Harvard	0-35
S. 24	@DELAWARE	
O. 1	@YALE	
O. 8	@LEHIGH	14-42
O. 15	Dartmouth	24-0
O. 22	Colgate	7-41
O. 29	@FORDHAM	35-42
N. 12	Lafayette	20-56
N. 19	@BUCKNELL	27-42

**Coach:** Tom Gilmore **Colors:** Royal Purple & White  
**Nickname:** Crusaders **2004 Record:** 3-8

**HOWARD WASHINGTON, DC**

S. 3	Winston-Salem	
S. 10	Hampton	14-47
S. 17	@FLORIDA A&M	
S. 24	@SAVANNAH STATE	53-7
O. 1	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	24-6
O. 15	@MORGAN STATE	42-35 (OT)
O. 22	North Carolina A&T	13-14 (OT)
O. 29	@NORFOLK STATE	35-17
N. 5	South Carolina State	16-23
N. 12	Bethune-Cookman	10-7
N. 19	@DELAWARE STATE	13-32

**Coach:** Rayford T. Petty **Colors:** Navy Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Bison **2004 Record:** 6-5

**IDAHO STATE POCATELLO, ID**

S. 1	Southern Utah	31-45
S. 10	@KENTUCKY	
S. 17	Montana-Western	
S. 24	Eastern Washington	22-47
O. 1	@MONTANA STATE	13-17
O. 8	Montana	22-24
O. 22	@SACRAMENTO STATE	29-24
O. 29	@WEBER STATE	14-26
N. 5	Portland State	21-42
N. 12	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	24-17
N. 19	@CAL POLY	20-35

**Coach:** Larry Lewis **Colors:** Black & Orange  
**Nickname:** Bengals **2004 Record:** 3-8

**ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL, IL**

S. 3	@IOWA STATE	
S. 10	Drake	
S. 17	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	35-31
S. 24	Murray State	
O. 1	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	30-24
O. 8	Western Kentucky	21-24
O. 15	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	14-41
O. 22	Northern Iowa	14-41
O. 29	Western Illinois	31-40
N. 5	@SMS	34-31
N. 12	Indiana State	38-41 (OT)

**Coach:** Denver Johnson **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Redbirds **2004 Record:** 4-7

**INDIANA STATE TERRE HAUTE, IN**

S. 1	Eastern Illinois	33-30 (OT)
S. 10	St. Francis (IN)	
S. 17	@MURRAY STATE	28-21
S. 24	@TEXAS TECH	
O. 1	Western Kentucky	9-31
O. 8	Youngstown State	20-45
O. 15	@NORTHERN IOWA	6-58
O. 22	Southern Illinois	10-59
O. 29	@SMS	28-31
N. 5	Western Illinois	27-29
N. 12	@ILLINOIS STATE	41-38 (OT)

**Coach:** Tim McGuire **Colors:** Royal Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Sycamores **2004 Record:** 4-7

**IONA NEW ROCHELLE, NY**

S. 3	@MONTCLAIR STATE	27-42
S. 10	Wagner	14-27
S. 17	Sacred Heart	7-48
S. 24	@STONEHILL	
O. 1	@LA SALLE	42-35
O. 8	@ST. PETER'S	14-23
O. 22	Assumption	23-6
O. 29	Duquesne	14-42
N. 5	Marist	14-41
N. 12	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	

**Coach:** Fred Mariani **Colors:** Maroon & Gold  
**Nickname:** Gaels **2004 Record:** 2-8

**JACKSON STATE JACKSON, MS**

S. 3	@HAMPTON	19-38
S. 10	Tennessee State	20-21
S. 17	Texas Southern	
S. 24	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	31-16
O. 8	Alabama State	6-28
O. 15	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	7-45
O. 22	Grambling State	32-23
O. 29	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	42-35
N. 5	@ALABAMA A&M	6-22
N. 12	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	45-28
N. 19	Alcorn State	14-16

◆ At Detroit, MI ◆ At Memphis, TN  
**Coach:** James Bell **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 4-7



**JACKSONVILLE JACKSONVILLE, FL**

S. 1	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	3-51
S. 17	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	3-38
S. 24	Butler	
O. 1	@DAYTON	
O. 8	Morehead State	14-28
O. 15	Davidson	29-26
O. 22	@AUSTIN PEAY	31-14
O. 29	North Greenville	
N. 12	@WEBBER INTERNATIONAL	31-24

**Coach:** Steve Gilbert **Colors:** Green & White  
**Nickname:** Dolphins **2004 Record:** 3-7

**JACKSONVILLE STATE JACKSONVILLE, AL**

S. 1	Furman	7-49
S. 10	Chattanooga	65-20
S. 17	@UAB	
S. 24	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	47-9
O. 1	Eastern Kentucky	30-23
O. 8	@MURRAY STATE	35-14
O. 15	Tennessee-Martin	59-12
O. 22	@TENNESSEE STATE	49-35
O. 29	Tennessee Tech	13-16
N. 12	@SAMPFORD	51-18
N. 19	Eastern Illinois	31-21

**Coach:** Jack Crowe **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Gamecocks **2004 Record:** 9-2

**JAMES MADISON HARRISONBURG, VA**

S. 3	Lock Haven	62-7
S. 10	@COASTAL CAROLINA	
S. 17	Delaware State	
O. 1	@HOFSTRA	31-21
O. 8	Maine	24-20
O. 15	@MASSACHUSETTS	28-7
O. 22	@DELAWARE	20-13
O. 29	Richmond	26-20
N. 5	@WILLIAM & MARY	48-34
N. 12	Villanova	17-0
N. 19	Towson	31-17

**Coach:** Mickey Matthews **Colors:** Purple & Gold  
**Nickname:** Dukes **2004 Record:** 12-2

**LA SALLE PHILADELPHIA, PA**

S. 3	@WAGNER	28-35
S. 10	Monmouth	15-34
S. 17	Ursinus	21-19
S. 24	St. Francis (PA)	42-45
O. 1	Iona	35-42
O. 8	@MARIST	35-41
O. 15	@CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY	56-22
O. 22	@COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY	0-6
O. 29	Kean	
N. 5	@DUQUESNE	35-56
N. 12	St. Peter's	30-27

**Coach:** Phil Longo **Colors:** Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Explorers **2004 Record:** 3-7

**LAFAYETTE EASTON, PA**

S. 3	@MARIST	48-7
S. 10	Richmond	21-16
S. 17	Princeton	18-35
S. 24	Fordham	35-20
O. 1	@GEORGETOWN	17-6
O. 8	Columbia	35-14
O. 15	Harvard	23-38
O. 29	Bucknell	14-13
N. 5	Colgate	19-22
N. 12	@HOLY CROSS	56-20
N. 19	@LEHIGH	24-10

**Coach:** Frank Tavani **Colors:** Maroon & White  
**Nickname:** Leopards **2004 Record:** 8-4

**LEHIGH BETHLEHEM, PA**

S. 3	Monmouth	
S. 10	@DELAWARE	
S. 24	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	
O. 1	@HARVARD	
O. 8	Holy Cross	42-14
O. 15	Yale	30-24
O. 22	@BUCKNELL	40-17
O. 29	@COLGATE	21-14
N. 5	Georgetown	49-18
N. 12	@FORDHAM	21-14
N. 19	Lafayette	10-24

**Coach:** Pete Lembo **Colors:** Brown & White  
**Nickname:** Mountain Hawks **2004 Record:** 9-3

**LIBERTY LYNCHBURG, VA**

S. 3	Concord	
S. 10	@CONNECTICUT	
S. 17	Youngstown State	17-27
S. 24	@WILLIAM & MARY	17-37
O. 1	Virginia Military	38-17
O. 8	Chattanooga	43-40
O. 15	Towson	
O. 20	Coastal Carolina	6-33
O. 29	@GARDNER-WEBB	17-9
N. 12	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	34-6
N. 19	@NORFOLK STATE	

**Coach:** Ken Karcher **Colors:** Red, White & Blue  
**Nickname:** Flames **2004 Record:** 6-5

**MAINE ORONO, ME**

S. 3	@NEBRASKA	
S. 10	William Penn	
S. 17	Richmond	29-25
O. 1	Albany	
O. 8	@JAMES MADISON	20-24
O. 15	@HOFSTRA	20-31
O. 22	Massachusetts	34-35 (OT)
O. 29	Delaware	38-43
N. 5	@NORTHEASTERN	35-26
N. 12	Rhode Island	42-28
N. 19	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	36-50

**Coach:** Jack Cosgrove **Colors:** White & Blue  
**Nickname:** Black Bears **2004 Record:** 5-6

**MARIST Poughkeepsie, NY**

S. 3	Lafayette	7-48
S. 10	@SACRED HEART	10-38
S. 17	Central Connecticut State	13-28
S. 24	@WAGNER	13-28
O. 1	@BUCKNELL	
O. 8	La Salle	41-35
O. 22	Duquesne	3-7
O. 29	@ST. PETER'S	22-20
N. 5	@IONA	41-14
N. 12	@SAN DIEGO	
N. 19	Stony Brook	

**Coach:** Jim Parady **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Red Foxes **2004 Record:** 3-6

**MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST, MA**

S. 1	@RICHMOND	14-24
S. 10	@COLGATE	30-20
S. 17	Albany	
S. 24	Rhode Island	24-27
O. 8	Northeastern	26-22
O. 15	James Madison	7-28
O. 22	@MAINE	35-34 (OT)
O. 29	New Hampshire	38-21
N. 5	@DELAWARE	7-21
N. 12	@ARMY	
N. 19	@HOFSTRA	40-30

**Coach:** Don Brown **Colors:** Maroon & White  
**Nickname:** Minutemen **2004 Record:** 6-5

**MCCNEESE STATE LAKE CHARLES, LA**

S. 3	Southern University	35-17
S. 10	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	
S. 17	@SOUTHERN MISS	
S. 24	Northwestern Oklahoma State	
O. 1	Southern Utah	14-56
O. 15	Stephen F. Austin	7-55
O. 22	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	17-51
O. 29	Sam Houston State	47-52
N. 5	@TEXAS STATE	27-54
N. 12	Northwestern State	17-47
N. 19	@NICHOLLS STATE	30-9

**Coach:** Tommy Tate **Colors:** Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Cowboys **2004 Record:** 4-7

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE ITTA BENA, MS**

S. 3	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	14-49
S. 10	Southern University	14-17
S. 17	@ALABAMA A&M	20-30
S. 24	Jackson State	16-31
O. 8	@GRAMBLING STATE	26-34
O. 22	Texas Southern	15-14
O. 29	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	42-34
N. 5	@ALCORN STATE	30-31
N. 12	Alabama State	6-34
N. 19	Southeastern Louisiana	17-33

**Coach:** Willie Totten **Colors:** Green & White  
**Nickname:** Delta Devils **2004 Record:** 3-8

**MONMOUTH WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ**

S. 3	@LEHIGH	
S. 10	@LA SALLE	34-15
S. 17	California (PA)	
O. 1	@STONY BROOK	0-27
O. 8	@SACRED HEART	28-10
O. 15	Wagner	14-7
O. 22	Robert Morris	29-27
O. 29	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	9-6
N. 5	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	49-39
N. 12	Albany	25-24

**Coach:** Kevin Callahan **Colors:** Royal Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Hawks **2004 Record:** 10-1

**MONTANA MISSOULA, MT**

S. 3	Fort Lewis	
S. 10	@OREGON	
S. 17	South Dakota State	
O. 1	Weber State	42-21
O. 8	@IDAHO STATE	24-22
O. 15	Eastern Washington	31-28
O. 22	Cal Poly	
O. 29	Portland State	32-35
N. 5	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	34-22
N. 12	@SACRAMENTO STATE	52-21
N. 19	@MONTANA STATE	38-22

**Coach:** Bobby Hauck **Colors:** Copper, Silver & Gold  
**Nickname:** Grizzlies **2004 Record:** 12-2

**MONTANA STATE BOZEMAN, MT**

S. 3	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
S. 10	Stephen F. Austin	
S. 17	@CAL POLY	14-27
S. 24	North Dakota State	
O. 1	Idaho State	17-13
O. 8	@WEBER STATE	20-17
O. 15	@PORTLAND STATE	31-24 (OT)
O. 29	Northern Arizona	60-14
N. 5	Sacramento State	28-38
N. 12	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	44-51 (OT)
N. 19	Montana	22-38

**Coach:** Mike Kramer **Colors:** Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Bobcats **2004 Record:** 6-5

**MOREHEAD STATE MOREHEAD, KY**

S. 3	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	7-2
S. 10	Newberry	
S. 17	@VALPARAISO	29-23
S. 24	Dayton	0-28
O. 1	@BUTLER	15-7
O. 8	@JACKSONVILLE	28-14
O. 15	Austin Peay	28-14
O. 22	Davidson	10-14
O. 29	Tiffin	
N. 5	@MISSOURI-ROLLA	
N. 12	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	

**Coach:** Matt Ballard **Colors:** Scarlet & White  
**Nickname:** Eagles **2004 Record:** 6-6

**MORGAN STATE BALTIMORE, MD**

S. 1	@TOWSON	
S. 10	Bowie State	41-35
S. 17	Savannah State	
S. 24	@HAMPTON	37-49
O. 1	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	21-51
O. 8	North Carolina A&T	28-26
O. 15	Howard	35-42 (OT)
O. 22	@DELAWARE STATE	34-30
O. 29	Florida A&M	
N. 5	Norfolk State	58-28
N. 12	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	35-38 (OT)

◆ At Cleveland, OH  
**Coach:** Donald Hill-Eley **Colors:** Royal Blue & Orange  
**Nickname:** Bears **2004 Record:** 5-6

**MURRAY STATE MURRAY, KY**

S. 3	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S. 17	Indiana State	21-28
S. 24	@ILLINOIS STATE	
O. 1	@TENNESSEE TECH	34-15
O. 8	Jacksonville State	14-35
O. 15	@SAMPFORD	24-21
O. 22	Eastern Illinois	9-24
O. 29	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	28-13
N. 5	Eastern Kentucky	19-16 (OT)
N. 12	Austin Peay	
N. 19	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	38-0

**Coach:** Joe Pannunzio **Colors:** Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Racers **2004 Record:** 7-4

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DURHAM, NH**

S. 3	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	
S. 17	@TOWSON	62-24
S. 24	Dartmouth	45-24
O. 1	Villanova	51-40
O. 8	@WILLIAM & MARY	7-9
O. 15	Rhode Island	27-3
O. 22	Northeastern	27-23
O. 29	@MASSACHUSETTS	21-38
N. 5	@HOFSTRA	33-27
N. 12	Iona	
N. 19	Maine	50-36

**Coach:** Sean McDonnell **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Wildcats **2004 Record:** 10-3

**NICHOLLS STATE THIBODAUX, LA**

S. 3	@UTAH STATE	
S. 10	@INDIANA	
S. 17	Cheyney	
S. 24	Western Carolina	7-28
O. 1	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	14-24
O. 8	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	41-23
O. 15	Sam Houston State	10-38
O. 29	Texas State	12-35
N. 5	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	40-14
N. 12	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
N. 19	McNeese State	9-30

**Coach:** Jay Thomas **Colors:** Cardinal, Gray & Royal  
**Nickname:** Colonels **2004 Record:** 5-5

**NORFOLK STATE NORFOLK, VA**

S. 3	Virginia State	7-17
S. 10	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	27-14
S. 24	Bethune-Cookman	3-43
O. 1	@SAVANNAH STATE	34-41 (OT)
O. 8	South Carolina State	14-39
O. 15	Hampton	10-58
O. 22	@FLORIDA A&M	
O. 29	Howard	17-35
N. 5	@MORGAN STATE	28-58
N. 12	@DELAWARE STATE	28-33
N. 19	Liberty	

**Coach:** Willie Gillis, Jr. **Colors:** Green & Gold  
**Nickname:** Spartans **2004 Record:** 1-8

**NORTH CAROLINA A&T GREENSBORO, NC**

S. 5	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL ◆	16-15
S. 10	Norfolk State	14-27
S. 17	Hampton	24-51
S. 24	@ELON	19-17
O. 1	Tennessee State ★	
O. 8	@MORGAN STATE	26-28
O. 15	Delaware State	6-15
O. 22	@HOWARD	14-13 (OT)
O. 29	Bethune-Cookman	17-45
N. 5	@FLORIDA A&M	
N. 19	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	28-34

◆ At Raleigh, NC ★ At Indianapolis, IN  
**Coach:** George Small **Colors:** Navy Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Aggies **2004 Record:** 3-8

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE FARGO, ND**

S. 1	Arkansas-Monticello	
S. 10	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	30-17
S. 17	Weber State	31-17
S. 24	@MONTANA STATE	
O. 1	Nicholls State	24-14
O. 8	@CAL POLY	10-13
O. 22	California-Davis	25-7
O. 29	@SOUTHERN UTAH	27-21
N. 5	Northern Colorado	13-15
N. 12	South Dakota State	21-24
N. 19	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	

**Coach:** Craig Bohl **Colors:** Green & Yellow  
**Nickname:** Bison **2004 Record:** 8-3

**NORTHEASTERN BOSTON, MA**

S. 3	Georgia Southern	
S. 10	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
S. 17	@VILLANOVA	34-30
S. 24	Towson	27-3
O. 8	@MASSACHUSETTS	22-26
O. 15	William & Mary	35-38 (OT)
O. 22	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	23-27
O. 29	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	
N. 5	Maine	26-35
N. 12	Hofstra	37-34 (OT)
N. 19	@RHODE ISLAND	47-14

**Coach:** Rocky Hager **Colors:** Red & Black  
**Nickname:** Huskies **2004 Record:** 5-6



cores at right indicate 2004 results

**NORTHERN ARIZONA FLAGSTAFF, AZ**

S. 1	Adams State	
S. 10	@ARIZONA	3-21
S. 17	Southern Utah	
S. 24	@WEBER STATE	55-27
O. 1	@SACRAMENTO STATE	26-0
O. 8	Eastern Washington	14-45
O. 22	@PORTLAND STATE	21-20
O. 29	@MONTANA STATE	14-60
N. 5	Montana	22-34
N. 12	Idaho State	17-24
N. 19	@NORTHERN IOWA	21-45

**Coach:** Jerome Souers **Colors:** Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Lumberjacks **2004 Record:** 4-7

**NORTHERN COLORADO GREELEY, CO**

S. 3	Colorado Mines	
S. 10	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S. 17	Southeastern Louisiana	13-26
S. 24	@PORTLAND STATE	
O. 1	Cal Poly	0-31
O. 22	@SOUTHERN UTAH	42-7
O. 29	Fort Lewis	
N. 5	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	15-13
N. 12	Sam Houston State	7-20
N. 19	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	7-14
N. 26	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	20-30

**Coach:** Kay Dalton **Colors:** Purple & Gold  
**Nickname:** Bears **2004 Record:** 2-9

**NORTHERN IOWA CEDAR FALLS, IA**

S. 1	Drake	
S. 10	Minnesota-Duluth	
S. 17	@IOWA	
O. 1	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	36-13
O. 8	@SMS	42-20
O. 15	Indiana State	58-6
O. 22	@ILLINOIS STATE	41-14
O. 29	Youngstown State	22-20
N. 5	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	10-17
N. 12	Southern Illinois	36-40
N. 19	Northern Arizona	45-21

**Coach:** Mark Farley **Colors:** Purple & Old Gold  
**Nickname:** Panthers **2004 Record:** 7-4

**NORTHWESTERN STATE NATCHITOCHES, LA**

S. 1	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
S. 10	North Dakota State	17-30
S. 17	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	7-14
S. 24	Texas Southern	52-6
O. 8	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	45-27
O. 15	Southeastern Louisiana	
O. 22	@TEXAS STATE	44-7
O. 29	Northeastern	
N. 5	Nicholls State	14-40
N. 12	@MCNEESE STATE	47-17
N. 19	Stephen F. Austin	37-16

**Coach:** Scott Stoker **Colors:** Purple & White  
**Nickname:** Demons **2004 Record:** 8-4

**PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA, PA**

S. 17	Duquesne	
S. 24	@VILLANOVA	13-16
O. 1	@DARTMOUTH	35-0
O. 8	Bucknell	32-25 (OT)
O. 15	@COLUMBIA	14-3
O. 22	Yale	17-7
O. 29	@BROWN	20-16
N. 5	Princeton	16-15
N. 12	@HARVARD	10-31
N. 19	Cornell	20-14

◆ At Philadelphia, PA  
**Coach:** Al Bagnoli **Colors:** Red & Blue  
**Nickname:** Quakers **2004 Record:** 8-2

**PORTLAND STATE PORTLAND, OR**

S. 3	@OREGON STATE	
S. 10	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	38-21
S. 17	Sacramento State	31-0
S. 24	Northern Colorado	
O. 1	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	21-41
O. 8	@BOISE STATE	
O. 15	Montana State	24-31 (OT)
O. 22	Northern Arizona	20-21
O. 29	@MONTANA	35-32
N. 5	@IDAHO STATE	42-21
N. 12	Weber State	34-15

**Coach:** Tim Walsh **Colors:** Forest Green & White  
**Nickname:** Vikings **2004 Record:** 7-4

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M PRAIRIE VIEW, TX**

S. 3	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	25-7
S. 10	Paul Quinn	31-12
S. 17	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	12-42
O. 1	@GRAMBLING STATE	32-53
O. 8	@ALCORN STATE	15-26
O. 15	@ALABAMA STATE	20-42
O. 22	@LINCOLN (MO)	20-14
O. 29	Mississippi Valley State	34-42
N. 5	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	23-24
N. 12	Jackson State	28-45
N. 19	Alabama A&M	6-42

◆ At Houston, TX ★ At Dallas, TX  
**Coach:** Henry Frazier **Colors:** Purple & Gold  
**Nickname:** Panthers **2004 Record:** 3-8

**PRINCETON PRINCETON, NJ**

S. 17	@LAFAYETTE	35-18
S. 24	San Diego	24-17
O. 1	Columbia	27-26 (OT)
O. 8	Colgate	26-29
O. 15	@BROWN	24-10
O. 22	@HARVARD	14-39
O. 29	Cornell	20-21
N. 5	@PENNSYLVANIA	15-16
N. 12	Yale	9-21
N. 19	@DARTMOUTH	17-10

**Coach:** Roger Hughes **Colors:** Orange & Black  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 5-5

**RHODE ISLAND KINGSTON, RI**

S. 3	Fordham	37-36
S. 10	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	39-7
S. 17	William & Mary	24-31
S. 24	@MASSACHUSETTS	27-24
O. 1	@BROWN	13-20
O. 8	Towson	28-16
O. 15	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	3-27
O. 22	@VILLANOVA	9-48
O. 29	Hofstra	43-62
N. 12	@MAINE	28-42
N. 19	Northeastern	14-42

**Coach:** Tim Stowers **Colors:** Columbia Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Rams **2004 Record:** 4-7

**RICHMOND RICHMOND, VA**

S. 1	Massachusetts	24-14
S. 10	@LAFAYETTE	16-21
S. 17	@MAINE	25-29
S. 24	@VANDERBILT	
O. 8	Villanova	10-49
O. 15	@DELAWARE	14-23
O. 22	Hofstra	17-48
O. 29	@JAMES MADISON	20-26
N. 5	Virginia Military	34-7
N. 12	@TOWSON	24-0
N. 19	William & Mary	14-38

**Coach:** Dave Clawson **Colors:** Red & Blue  
**Nickname:** Spiders **2004 Record:** 3-8

**ROBERT MORRIS MOON TOWNSHIP, PA**

S. 3	@DUQUESNE	34-14
S. 17	Butler	
S. 24	@ROWAN	
O. 1	St. Francis (PA)	28-10
O. 8	Wagner	17-20
O. 15	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	21-34
O. 22	@MONMOUTH	27-29
O. 29	Stony Brook	31-24
N. 5	@ALBANY	34-7
N. 12	Sacred Heart	3-24

**Coach:** Joe Walton **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Colonials **2004 Record:** 6-5

**SACRAMENTO STATE SACRAMENTO, CA**

S. 3	@CALIFORNIA	
S. 10	@CAL POLY	13-58
S. 17	@PORTLAND STATE	0-31
S. 24	California-Davis	23-58
O. 1	Northern Arizona	0-26
O. 8	Azusa Pacific	
O. 15	@WEBER STATE	31-12
O. 22	Idaho State	24-29
O. 29	Eastern Washington	10-45
N. 5	@MONTANA STATE	38-28
N. 12	Montana	21-52

**Coach:** Steve Mooshagian **Colors:** Green & Gold  
**Nickname:** Hornets **2004 Record:** 3-8

**SACRED HEART FAIRFIELD, CT**

S. 3	@HOLY CROSS	
S. 10	Marist	38-10
S. 17	@IOWA	48-7
O. 1	@WAGNER	30-24 (OT)
O. 8	Monmouth	10-28
O. 15	@ALBANY	6-23
O. 22	Stony Brook	38-35
O. 29	St. Francis (PA)	28-35
N. 5	Central Connecticut State	6-27
N. 12	@ROBERT MORRIS	24-3

**Coach:** Paul Gorham **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Pioneers **2004 Record:** 6-4

**SAM HOUSTON STATE HUNTSVILLE, TX**

S. 1	Bacone College	
S. 10	@HOUSTON	
S. 17	@TEXAS TECH	
S. 24	SMS	31-33
O. 8	Northwestern State	27-45
O. 15	@NICHOLLS STATE	38-10
O. 22	Stephen F. Austin	31-28
O. 29	@MCNEESE STATE	52-47
N. 5	Southeastern Louisiana	45-17
N. 12	@NORTHERN COLORADO	20-7
N. 19	@TEXAS STATE	27-9

**Coach:** Ron Randleman **Colors:** Orange & White  
**Nickname:** Bearkats **2004 Record:** 11-3

**SAMFORD BIRMINGHAM, AL**

S. 1	Edward Waters	
S. 10	@BAYLOR	
S. 17	@FURMAN	10-45
S. 24	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	14-28
O. 1	Southeast Missouri State	48-51 (OT)
O. 8	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	36-39 (OT)
O. 15	Murray State	21-24
O. 22	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	34-20
O. 29	Tennessee State	42-36 (OT)
N. 5	@TENNESSEE TECH	20-17
N. 12	Jacksonville State	18-51

**Coach:** Bill Gray **Colors:** Red & Blue  
**Nickname:** Bulldogs **2004 Record:** 4-7

**SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO, CA**

S. 3	Azusa Pacific	17-24
S. 10	Southern Oregon	51-10
S. 17	Yale	
S. 24	@PRINCETON	17-24
O. 1	Menlo	41-12
O. 8	Butler	38-35
O. 15	@DAYTON	38-41
O. 22	Drake	38-41
O. 29	@VALPARAISO	49-14
N. 5	Chapman	
N. 12	Marist	

**Coach:** Jim Harbaugh **Colors:** Navy, Columbia Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Toreros **2004 Record:** 7-4

**SAVANNAH STATE SAVANNAH, GA**

S. 3	Benedict	
S. 10	Elon	
S. 17	@MORGAN STATE	7-53
S. 24	Howard	41-34 (OT)
O. 1	Norfolk State	
O. 15	Bethune-Cookman	
O. 22	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	
O. 29	Central State	
N. 5	Coastal Carolina	14-52
N. 12	Gardner-Webb	
N. 19	@HAMPTON	7-58

◆ At Cleveland, OH  
**Coach:** Richard Basil **Colors:** Blue & Orange  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 2-8

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ORANGEBURG, SC**

S. 3	@ALABAMA STATE	◆
S. 10	Winston-Salem	
S. 17	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	28-14
O. 1	Coastal Carolina	
O. 8	@NORFOLK STATE	39-14
O. 15	Florida A&M	
O. 22	@HAMPTON	36-52
O. 29	Delaware State	28-14
N. 5	@HOWARD	23-16
N. 12	Morgan State	38-35 (OT)
N. 19	North Carolina A&T	34-28

◆ At Birmingham, AL ★ At Jacksonville, FL  
**Coach:** Buddy Pough **Colors:** Garnet & Blue  
**Nickname:** Bulldogs **2004 Record:** 9-2

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE BROOKINGS, SD**

S. 3	Wisconsin-La Crosse	
S. 10	Valparaiso	
S. 17	@MONTANA	
S. 24	Cal Poly	7-14
O. 1	@TEXAS STATE	
O. 8	California-Davis	0-52
O. 22	Missouri-Rolla	
O. 29	Georgia Southern	7-63
N. 5	Southern Utah	17-23 (OT)
N. 12	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	24-21
N. 19	Northern Colorado	14-7

**Coach:** John Stiegelmeier **Colors:** Yellow & Blue  
**Nickname:** Jackrabbits **2004 Record:** 6-5

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ST. CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO**

S. 1	Southern Illinois	3-42
S. 10	@KENT STATE	
S. 17	@SMS	
S. 24	Jacksonville State	9-47
O. 1	@SAMPFORD	51-48 (OT)
O. 8	Eastern Illinois	28-35
O. 22	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	13-38
O. 29	Murray State	13-28
N. 5	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	35-7
N. 12	Tennessee State	36-38
N. 19	@TENNESSEE TECH	31-28 (OT)

**Coach:** Tim Billings **Colors:** Red & Black  
**Nickname:** Redhaws **2004 Record:** 3-8

**SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA HAMMOND, LA**

S. 1	Jacksonville	51-3
S. 10	Alcorn State	27-33
S. 17	@NORTHERN COLORADO	26-13
O. 1	@TULANE	
O. 8	Texas State	28-31 (OT)
O. 15	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	
O. 22	McNeese State	51-17
O. 29	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	
N. 5	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	17-45
N. 12	Nicholls State	
N. 19	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	33-17

**Coach:** Dennis Roland **Colors:** Cardinal, Silver & Black  
**Nickname:** Lions **2004 Record:** 7-4

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CARBONDALE, IL**

S. 1	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	42-3
S. 10	Union	
S. 17	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	
O. 1	SMS	27-3
O. 8	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	66-13
O. 15	Illinois State	41-14
O. 22	@INDIANA STATE	59-10
O. 29	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	38-10
N. 5	Youngstown State	37-2
N. 12	@NORTHERN IOWA	40-36
N. 19	North Dakota State	

**Coach:** Jerry Kill **Colors:** Maroon & White  
**Nickname:** Salukis **2004 Record:** 10-2

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE, LA**

S. 3	@MCNEESE STATE	17-35
S. 10	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	17-14
S. 17	Prairie View A&M	42-12
S. 24	Albany State (GA)	
O. 1	@ALABAMA STATE	42-41
O. 8	Alabama A&M	33-24
O. 15	Jackson State	45-7
O. 22	Alcorn State	23-20
N. 5	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	28-0
N. 12	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	
N. 26	@GRAMBLING STATE	13-24

◆ At Mobile, AL ★ At New Orleans, LA  
**Coach:** Pete Richardson **Colors:** Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Jaguars **2004 Record:** 8-4

**SOUTHERN UTAH CEDAR CITY, UT**

S. 1	@IDAHO STATE	45-31
S. 10	@TEXAS STATE	
S. 17	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	
S. 24	Stephen F. Austin	21-24
O. 1	@MCNEESE STATE	56-14
O. 15	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	19-15
O. 22	Northern Colorado	7-42
O. 29	North Dakota State	21-27
N. 5	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	23-17 (OT)
N. 12	@CAL POLY	17-24
N. 19	Weber State	34-31

**Coach:** Wes Meier **Colors:** Scarlet, Royal Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Thunderbirds **2004 Record:** 6-5



**SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE** SPRINGFIELD, MO

S. 3	@ARKANSAS	
S. 10	Quincy	
S. 17	Southeast Missouri State	
S. 24	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	33-31
O. 1	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	3-27
O. 8	Northern Iowa	20-42
O. 15	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	24-28
O. 22	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	34-28
O. 29	Indiana State	31-28
N. 5	Illinois State	31-34
N. 12	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	36-31

**Coach:** Randy Ball **Colors:** Maroon & White  
**Nickname:** Bears **2004 Record:** 6-5

**ST. FRANCIS (PA)** LORETTA, PA

S. 3	Morehead State	2-7
S. 10	@ST. PETER'S	
S. 24	@LA SALLE	45-42
O. 1	@ROBERT MORRIS	10-28
O. 8	Central Connecticut State	17-35
O. 15	@STONY BROOK	21-29
O. 22	Albany	0-38
O. 29	@SACRED HEART	35-28
N. 5	Monmouth	39-49
N. 12	@WAGNER	14-17
N. 19	Duquesne	

**Coach:** Dave Opfar **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Red Flash **2004 Record:** 3-8

**ST. PETER'S** JERSEY CITY, NJ

S. 1	Western Connecticut State	
S. 10	St. Francis (PA)	
S. 15	Wagner	
O. 1	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	15-30
O. 8	Iona	23-14
O. 15	@DUQUESNE	8-34
O. 22	@SALISBURY STATE	
O. 29	Marist	20-22
N. 5	Pace	13-6
N. 12	@LA SALLE	27-30

**Coach:** Chris Taylor **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Peacocks **2004 Record:** 3-7

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** NACOGDOCHES, TX

S. 1	Henderson State	30-14
S. 10	@MONTANA STATE	
S. 17	Western Illinois	
S. 24	@SOUTHERN UTAH	24-21
O. 8	Nicholls State	23-41
O. 15	@MCNEESE STATE	55-7
O. 22	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	28-31
O. 29	Southeastern Louisiana	
N. 5	California-Davis	22-19
N. 12	Texas State	14-17
N. 19	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	16-37

**Coach:** Mike Santiago **Colors:** Purple & White  
**Nickname:** Lumberjacks **2004 Record:** 6-5

**STONY BROOK** STONY BROOK, NY

S. 10	Bucknell	
S. 17	@HOFSTRA	21-61
S. 24	Georgetown	
O. 1	Monmouth	27-0
O. 8	@ALBANY	22-27
O. 15	St. Francis (PA)	29-21
O. 22	@SACRED HEART	35-38
O. 29	@ROBERT MORRIS	24-31
N. 5	Wagner	13-21
N. 12	Central Connecticut State	28-38
N. 19	@MARIST	

**Coach:** Sam Kornhauser **Colors:** Scarlet & Grey  
**Nickname:** Seawolves **2004 Record:** 3-7

**TENNESSEE STATE** NASHVILLE, TN

S. 3	Alabama A&M	42-7
S. 10	@JACKSON STATE	21-20
S. 17	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	27-13
S. 24	@FLORIDA A&M	15-21
O. 1	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	
O. 13	@TENNESSEE TECH	
O. 22	Jacksonville State	35-49
O. 29	@SAMFORD	36-42 (OT)
N. 5	Eastern Illinois	24-34
N. 12	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	38-36
N. 19	Eastern Kentucky	14-29

◆ At Memphis, TN ◆ At Atlanta, GA  
 ◆ At Indianapolis, IN  
**Coach:** James Reese **Colors:** Royal Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 4-7

**TENNESSEE TECH** COOKEVILLE, TN

S. 3	@CHATTANOOGA	52-34
S. 8	Lambuth	
S. 17	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S. 24	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	18-19
O. 1	Murray State	15-34
O. 8	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	49-20
O. 13	Tennessee State	
O. 29	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	16-13
N. 5	Samford	17-20
N. 12	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	40-37 (OT)
N. 19	Southeast Missouri State	28-31 (OT)

**Coach:** Mike Hennigan **Colors:** Purple & Gold  
**Nickname:** Golden Eagles **2004 Record:** 6-5

**TENNESSEE-MARTIN** MARTIN, TN

S. 1	Central Arkansas	
S. 10	@ARKANSAS STATE	
S. 17	Tennessee State	13-27
S. 24	@GARDNER-WEBB	
O. 8	Tennessee Tech	20-49
O. 15	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	12-59
O. 22	Samford	20-34
O. 29	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	32-14
N. 5	Southeast Missouri State	7-35
N. 12	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	14-41
N. 19	Murray State	0-38

**Coach:** Matt Griffin **Colors:** Orange, Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Skyhawks **2004 Record:** 2-9

**TEXAS SOUTHERN** HOUSTON, TX

S. 3	Prairie View A&M	7-25
S. 10	Alabama State	15-55
S. 17	@JACKSON STATE	
S. 24	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	6-52
O. 1	@ALABAMA A&M	3-22
O. 15	Alcorn State	0-30
O. 22	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	14-15
O. 29	@GRAMBLING STATE	10-28
N. 5	Southern University	0-28
N. 12	@UTEP	
N. 19	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0-42

◆ At Houston, TX  
**Coach:** Steve Wilson **Colors:** Maroon & Gray  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 0-11

**TEXAS STATE** SAN MARCOS, TX

S. 3	Delta State	
S. 10	Southern Utah	
S. 24	@TEXAS A&M	
O. 1	South Dakota State	
O. 8	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	31-28 (OT)
O. 15	Panhandle State	
O. 22	Northwestern State	7-44
O. 29	@NICHOLLS STATE	35-12
N. 5	McNeese State	54-27
N. 12	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	17-14
N. 19	Sam Houston State	9-27

**Coach:** David Bailiff **Colors:** Maroon & Gold  
**Nickname:** Bobcats **2004 Record:** 5-6

**TOWSON** TOWSON, MD

S. 1	Morgan State	
S. 10	Lock Haven	
S. 17	New Hampshire	24-62
S. 24	@NORTHEASTERN	3-27
O. 1	Delaware	17-21
O. 8	@RHODE ISLAND	16-28
O. 15	@LIBERTY	
O. 22	@WILLIAM & MARY	16-41
N. 5	Villanova	6-41
N. 12	Richmond	0-24
N. 19	@JAMES MADISON	17-31

**Coach:** Gordy Combs **Colors:** White, Gold & Black  
**Nickname:** Tigers **2004 Record:** 3-8

**UC DAVIS** DAVIS, CA

S. 3	New Hampshire	
S. 10	Portland	
S. 17	@Stanford	
S. 24	@Sacramento State	58-23
O. 8	@South Dakota State	52-0
O. 15	Southern Utah	15-19
O. 22	@North Dakota State	7-25
O. 29	Cal Poly	36-33
N. 5	@Stephen F. Austin	18-21
N. 19	@Eastern Washington	
N. 26	Northern Colorado	30-20

**Coach:** Bob Biggs **Colors:** Yale Blue & Gold  
**Nickname:** Aggies **2004 Record:** 6-4

**VALPARAISO** VALPARAISO, IN

S. 3	@WISCONSIN LUTHERAN	41-0
S. 10	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	
S. 17	Morehead State	23-29
S. 24	Davidson	
O. 1	@AUSTIN PEAY	24-14
O. 8	St. Joseph's (IN)	
O. 15	@BUTLER	31-26
O. 22	@DAYTON	7-38
O. 29	San Diego	14-49
N. 5	Drake	10-37
N. 12	@AURORA	33-0

**Coach:** Tom Horne **Colors:** Brown & Gold  
**Nickname:** Crusaders **2004 Record:** 5-6

**VILLANOVA** VILLANOVA, PA

S. 10	@RUTGERS	
S. 17	Northeastern	30-34
S. 24	Pennsylvania	16-13
O. 1	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	40-51
O. 8	@RICHMOND	49-10
O. 15	@BUCKNELL	20-14
O. 22	Rhode Island	48-9
O. 29	William & Mary	29-37
N. 5	@TOWSON	41-6
N. 12	@JAMES MADISON	0-17
N. 19	Delaware	35-41

◆ At Philadelphia, PA  
**Coach:** Andy Talley **Colors:** Blue & White  
**Nickname:** Wildcats **2004 Record:** 6-5

**VIRGINIA MILITARY** LEXINGTON, VA

S. 3	Davidson	
S. 10	William & Mary	6-42
S. 17	@DUKE	
S. 24	Lehigh	
O. 1	@LIBERTY	17-38
O. 8	Charleston Southern	24-25
O. 15	@WOFFORD	18-19
O. 22	Gardner-Webb	17-28
O. 29	@COASTAL CAROLINA	14-21
N. 5	@RICHMOND	7-34
N. 19	Citadel	

**Coach:** Cal McCombs **Colors:** Red, White & Yellow  
**Nickname:** Keydets **2004 Record:** 0-11

**WAGNER** STATEN ISLAND, NY

S. 3	La Salle	35-28
S. 10	@IOWA	27-14
S. 15	@ST. PETER'S	
S. 24	Marist	28-13
O. 1	Sacred Heart	24-30 (OT)
O. 8	@ROBERT MORRIS	20-17
O. 15	@MONMOUTH	7-14
O. 22	Central Connecticut State	21-28 (OT)
O. 29	Albany	27-35
N. 5	@STONY BROOK	21-13
N. 12	St. Francis (PA)	17-14

**Coach:** Walt Hameline **Colors:** Green & White  
**Nickname:** Seahawks **2004 Record:** 6-5

**WEBER STATE** OGDEN, UT

S. 3	Western State	
S. 10	@FRESNO STATE	
S. 17	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	17-31
S. 24	Northern Arizona	27-55
O. 1	@MONTANA	21-42
O. 8	Montana State	17-20
O. 15	Sacramento State	12-31
O. 22	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	7-51
O. 29	Idaho State	26-14
N. 12	@PORTLAND STATE	15-34
N. 19	@SOUTHERN UTAH	31-34

**Coach:** Jerry Graybeal **Colors:** Royal Purple & White  
**Nickname:** Wildcats **2004 Record:** 1-10

**WESTERN CAROLINA** CULLOWHEE, NC

S. 1	Mars Hill	
S. 10	Furman	10-31
S. 17	@CINCINNATI	
S. 24	@NICHOLLS STATE	28-7
O. 1	Citadel	0-17
O. 8	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	16-38
O. 22	@CHATTANOOGA	24-27
O. 29	Elon	28-7
N. 5	Wofford	12-15
N. 12	@APPALACHIAN STATE	30-27

**Coach:** Kent Briggs **Colors:** Purple & Gold  
**Nickname:** Catamounts **2004 Record:** 4-7

**WESTERN ILLINOIS** MACOMB, IL

S. 1	@TOLEDO	
S. 10	Northern Colorado	
S. 17	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	
S. 24	Iowa Wesleyan	
O. 1	Northern Iowa	13-36
O. 8	Southern Illinois	13-66
O. 15	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	9-34
O. 22	Western Kentucky	3-45
O. 29	@ILLINOIS STATE	40-31
N. 5	@INDIANA STATE	29-27
N. 12	SMS	31-36

**Coach:** Don Patterson **Colors:** Purple & Gold  
**Nickname:** Leathernecks **2004 Record:** 4-7

**WESTERN KENTUCKY** BOWLING GREEN, KY

S. 1	West Virginia Tech	
S. 10	Eastern Kentucky	21-8
S. 24	@AUBURN	
O. 1	@INDIANA STATE	31-9
O. 8	@ILLINOIS STATE	24-21
O. 15	SMS	28-24
O. 22	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	45-3
O. 29	Southern Illinois	10-38
N. 5	Northern Iowa	17-10
N. 12	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	44-19
N. 19	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	35-14

**Coach:** David Elson **Colors:** Red & White  
**Nickname:** Hilltoppers **2004 Record:** 9-3

**WILLIAM & MARY** WILLIAMSBURG, VA

S. 1	@MARSHALL	
S. 10	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	42-6
S. 17	@RHODE ISLAND	31-24
S. 24	Liberty	37-17
O. 8	New Hampshire	9-7
O. 15	@NORTHEASTERN	38-35 (OT)
O. 22	Towson	41-16
O. 29	@VILLANOVA	37-29
N. 5	James Madison	34-48
N. 12	Delaware	44-38 (OT)
N. 19	@RICHMOND	38-14

**Coach:** Jimmy Laycock **Colors:** Green, Gold & Silver  
**Nickname:** Tribe **2004 Record:** 11-3

**WOFFORD** SPARTANBURG, SC

S. 3	Georgetown (KY)	
S. 10	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S. 17	Georgia Southern	14-58
O. 1	@CHATTANOOGA	56-21
O. 8	Elon	27-13
O. 15	Virginia Military	19-18
O. 22	Appalachian State	17-38
O. 29	@CITADEL	38-17
N. 5	@WESTERN CAROLINA	15-12
N. 12	@FURMAN	24-31
N. 19	@GARDNER-WEBB	49-17

**Coach:** Mike Ayers **Colors:** Old Gold & Black  
**Nickname:** Terriers **2004 Record:** 8-3

**YALE** NEW HAVEN, CT

S. 17	@SAN DIEGO	
S. 24	Cornell	7-19
O. 1	Holy Cross	
O. 8	Dartmouth	24-14
O. 15	@LEHIGH	24-30
O. 22	@PENNSYLVANIA	7-17
O. 29	@COLUMBIA	21-14
N. 5	Brown	17-24
N. 12	@PRINCETON	21-9
N. 19	Harvard	3-35

**Coach:** Jack Siedlecki **Colors:** Yale Blue  
**Nickname:** Bulldogs **2004 Record:** 5-5

**YOUNGSTOWN STATE** YOUNGSTOWN, OH

S. 1	Slippery Rock	35-13
S. 10	Northeastern	
S. 17	@LIBERTY	27-17
S. 24	@PITTSBURGH	
O. 1	Illinois State	24-30
O. 8	@INDIANA STATE	45-20
O. 15	Western Illinois	34-9
O. 22	SMS	28-34
O. 29	@NORTHERN IOWA	20-22
N. 5	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	2-37
N. 12	Western Kentucky	19-44

**Coach:** Jon Heacock **Colors:** Scarlet & White  
**Nickname:** Penguins **2004 Record:** 4-7



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# BOWL SCHEDULE 2005-06

ALL TIMES EASTERN

## New Orleans Bowl

Dec. 20, 2005 (New Orleans)  
Sun Belt 1st vs. C-USA  
8 p.m. ESPN

## GMAC Bowl

Dec. 21, 2005 (Mobile, Ala.)  
C-USA 2nd vs. MAC/WAC  
8 p.m. ESPN

## Las Vegas Bowl

Dec. 22, 2005 (Las Vegas, Nev.)  
MWC 1st/2nd vs. Pac-10 5th  
8 p.m. ESPN

## Poinsettia Bowl

Dec. 22, 2005 (San Diego)  
MWC vs. At-large  
4 p.m. ESPN2

## Fort Worth Bowl

Dec. 23, 2005 (Fort Worth, Texas)  
C-USA 4th vs. Big 12 8th  
8 p.m. ESPN

## Hawaii Bowl

Dec. 24, 2005 (Honolulu)  
C-USA 3rd vs. WAC  
8:30 p.m. ESPN

## Motor City Bowl

Dec. 26, 2005 (Detroit)  
MAC 1st/2nd vs. Big Ten 7th  
4 p.m. ESPN

## Champs Sports Bowl

Dec. 27, 2005 (Orlando)  
ACC 4th/5th vs. Big 12 7th  
5 p.m. ESPN

## Insight Bowl

Dec. 27, 2005 (Phoenix)  
Pac-10 4th vs. Big East 2nd/3rd  
TBD ESPN

## Alamo Bowl

Dec. 28, 2005 (San Antonio)  
Big 12 4th vs. Big Ten 4th  
8 p.m. ESPN

## MPC Computers Bowl

Dec. 28, 2005 (Boise, Idaho)  
WAC 1st/2nd/3rd vs. ACC 6th  
4:30 p.m. ESPN

## Emerald Bowl

Dec. 29, 2005 (San Francisco)  
MWC 2nd/3rd vs. Pac-10 6th  
1:30 p.m. ESPN

## Holiday Bowl

Dec. 29, 2005 (San Diego)  
Pac-10 2nd vs. Big 12 3rd  
8 p.m. ESPN

## Independence Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (Shreveport, La.)  
Big 12 5th vs. SEC 6th/7th  
3:30 p.m. ESPN



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## Music City Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (Nashville)  
SEC 6th vs. Big Ten 6th  
Noon ESPN

## Peach Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (Atlanta)  
ACC 3rd vs. SEC  
7:30 p.m. ESPN

## Sun Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (El Paso, Texas)  
Big Ten 5th vs. Pac-10 3rd  
Noon CBS

## Houston Bowl

Dec. 31, 2005 (Houston)  
Big 12 5th/6th vs. SEC West  
2:30 p.m. ESPN2

## Liberty Bowl

Dec. 31, 2005 (Memphis)  
C-USA 1st vs. TBD  
1 p.m. ESPN

## Meineke Car Care Bowl

Dec. 31, 2005 (Charlotte, N.C.)  
ACC vs. Big East  
11 a.m. ESPN2

## Capital One Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Orlando)  
Big Ten 2nd vs. SEC 2nd  
1 p.m. ABC

## Cotton Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Dallas)  
Big 12 vs. SEC  
11 a.m. Fox

## Gator Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Jacksonville, Fla.)  
ACC 2nd vs. Big East 2nd  
12:30 p.m. NBC

## Outback Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Tampa)  
Big Ten 3rd vs. SEC East 3rd  
11 a.m. ESPN

## Fiesta Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Tempe, Ariz.)  
BCS vs. BCS  
4:30 p.m. ABC

## Sugar Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (New Orleans)  
BCS vs. BCS  
8:30 p.m. ABC

## Orange Bowl

Jan. 3, 2006 (Miami)  
BCS vs. BCS  
8 p.m. ABC

## Rose Bowl

BCS National Championship Game  
Jan. 4, 2006 (Pasadena, Calif.)  
BCS vs. BCS  
8 p.m. ABC



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Underdog:	Arkansas St. (+14') over Troy 13-9	WON
College:	Oregon (+21) over Cal 27-28	WON
Pro:	Minnesota (-6) over Jacksonville 27-16	WON
Postseason:	Texas Tech (+11) over Cal 45-31	WON

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